



# Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



TUESDAY — 2 Nov 2021

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## Events, Opportunities

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HEADLINE	11/01 Higher food prices impact food banks
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.q13fox.com/news/higher-food-prices-could-cause-food-banks-to-scale-back-services-provided-to-people-in-need">https://www.q13fox.com/news/higher-food-prices-could-cause-food-banks-to-scale-back-services-provided-to-people-in-need</a>
GIST	<p><b>TACOMA, Wash.</b> - Higher food prices are forcing people to make some tough decisions with their budgets.</p> <p>The pandemic has slowed every part of the global supply chain—disrupting how products are manufactured, transported and distributed. It has caused a surge in shipping fees, a shortage of products and ultimately a price hike in foods including protein, dairy, produce and grains.</p> <p>"The price increase in food is hitting everyone. So, I'm not sure how we are all going to navigate this, from our own households in our own personal pantries, let alone the food pantries serving those in need," said Sue Potter, CEO of Nourish Pierce County.</p> <p>The impacts of the soaring prices are trickling down to local food banks, when the amount of people in need remains high. Nourish Pierce County operates 23 food banks in almost every part of the county. Potter said, over the past two months, all of their food banks have seen an increase in people they serve. She said part of that uptick in customers is due to COVID-19 government assistance funding and programs ending. She said she also thinks the soaring food prices is a factor.</p> <p>"The prices are crazy high. A lot of it has to do with the shipping fees," said Potter. "To give you an example—if we're purchasing a product that is canned or produced in Asia, in 2020, it may have cost somewhere between \$2,500-\$3,000 to get our container from Asia to Tacoma. A few months ago when I inquired about a load of food, the shipping cost had jumped up to \$10,000. And just recently, I'm told by my vendor, he has seen numbers even as high as \$20,000."</p> <p>Potter said, before the supply shortage, she could buy mixed vegetable cans at the wholesale price of \$12 per case. She said now it's \$19 per case.</p> <p>"That's very difficult for an organization that relies on 100 percent donations to stay in operation. So, we're very concerned about the supply chain, about food costs," said Potter.</p> <p>Nourish provides a minimum of three meals per day for three days for everyone in a household. Potter said her team worries if the food banks will still be able to offer that minimum.</p> <p>"We don't want anyone to have to skip a meal, but if the supply chain issue continues to go on like this and prices continue to increase and we can't find funding to support these crazy dollar amounts that we're having to pay now, we will have to cut back on what we provide our customers," said Potter. "We will be able to provide our neighbors in need with nutritious food that they need, but it will be on a much lower level."</p> <p>Cutting back resources for those that really need Nourish's help is the last thing Potter said she wants. To keep up with the high prices and growing need, the pantries plan to set aside some food and money for emergencies, and ramping up fundraising efforts.</p> <p>"It's the community coming together, all the entities coming together to make sure our neighbors have the food they need. We don't want anyone to have to choose between rent and food, or medicine and food," said Potter.</p> <p>Nourish is working closely with hunger relief programs through the Washington State Department of Agriculture to make sure there is food in all 23 of the pantries it operates. The team is also trying to work with more companies in the U.S. to secure food.</p> <p>"It's a guessing game at this point. It's a global pandemic, it's a global supply chain issue. So, the more we can do to stay healthy and keep our neighbors healthy, hopefully that will have a trickle down effect and we'll see everything improve in our world," said Potter.</p>

	Nourish Pierce County has more information on its <a href="#">website</a> about the services it provides throughout the county for those looking for food assistance. Nourish also has opportunities available for volunteers, food drives and donations.
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Housekeepers, hotels face off: daily service</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/housekeepers-hotel-owners-square-off-over-daily-service-11635854400">https://www.wsj.com/articles/housekeepers-hotel-owners-square-off-over-daily-service-11635854400</a>
GIST	<p>Housekeepers are battling hotel owners' efforts to eliminate daily room cleaning, a longtime staple of the American hospitality experience.</p> <p>Many hotels, <a href="#">after suspending housekeeping</a> at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic last year, now clean only when guests request it. The practice began over infection concerns, and some guests still prefer not to have staff in their rooms during stays. The cutbacks also <a href="#">reflect staffing shortages</a>, lower occupancies and hotel owners' desire to reduce expenses, hotel analysts say.</p> <p>Housekeepers generally oppose the reduced cleaning schedules. They worry that the move will eliminate jobs and make the already physically demanding work even tougher for those who remain. Unite Here, a union representing hotel workers in the U.S. and Canada, has negotiated agreements with hotels in New York City, Boston and other cities that require owners to maintain daily cleanings.</p> <p>"This is just a new iteration of reducing services and lowering customer expectations," said D. Taylor, international president of Unite Here. "It has nothing to do with Covid."</p> <p>Legislators in San Francisco, Nevada and New Jersey have passed laws requiring automatic daily cleaning of hotel rooms. The new provisions outline stringent sanitation measures and add protections for workers.</p> <p>Hotel owners say they are in a bind. Industry revenue started to recover in the spring but remains well below pre-pandemic levels. Many properties are having a hard time finding enough housekeepers to clean rooms daily. Hotel employment is still down, with 17% fewer hotel and motel workers on the job nationwide last July than two years ago, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.</p> <p>Gregory Miller, a lodging-stock analyst for Truist Securities, said the pandemic exacerbated pre-existing labor issues in the hotel industry. Now, wages are rising along with demand. While corporate travel hasn't fully recovered, pleasure travelers are booking rooms and willing to pay high rates, so leisure hotels are increasing wages to attract workers.</p> <p>"It's a very challenging environment, if you're a hotel manager or owner, to figure out how to staff your hotel," Mr. Miller said.</p> <p>Industry challenges vary widely depending on location. In New York City, where business travelers and international tourists have been slow to return, many hotels remain closed and workers unemployed. Rich Maroko, president of the Hotel Trades Council union, said about 15,000 hotel workers—half his membership—are waiting to be called back to work.</p> <p>The HTC negotiated coronavirus-safety protocols at the beginning of the pandemic that included explicit provisions requiring daily room cleaning, but some hotel operators still switched to cleaning rooms only when guests check out, Mr. Maroko said. The union fought against the changes and successfully reinstated daily room cleaning at about a dozen New York City hotels, according to the HTC.</p> <p>Operators in bustling resort destinations, by contrast, are understaffed and raising wages to attract workers. Jason Kern, general manager of the oceanfront Embassy Suites by Hilton in St. Augustine, Fla., said he wanted rooms cleaned daily to prevent trash from piling up and stains from setting. But the hotel has had a hard time keeping housekeepers during the pandemic and is only lightly cleaning rooms during stays if guests request it.</p>

Mr. Kern said he had raised wages twice this year—housekeepers now make \$13 an hour—but he is still 15% understaffed in the department compared with 2019. Three-quarters of guests staying three nights or longer are now requesting room cleanings, he said, up from 20% last year. Less than half of guests staying two nights or fewer request cleaning.

Housekeeping frequency can also depend on price point. Luxury hotels continue to offer daily service, said Michael Bellisario, senior research analyst covering hotels at Baird Equity Research. “It would be kind of weird if I’m staying at a Four Seasons and no one comes and cleans my room,” he said.

With some of its brands, Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. adopted a policy during the pandemic that requires rooms to be deep-cleaned in between guests and on the fifth day of extended stays, a company representative said. Guests can request more frequent cleanings, and Hilton’s luxury brands will continue to receive automatic daily housekeeping.

Choice Hotels International Inc. began a housekeeping-by-request pilot program in the summer of 2020, and surveys found that a majority of guests didn’t miss daily housekeeping, according to the company. Choice-branded hotels are now providing housekeeping when requested for shorter stays, and after every third night for longer stays. The company said it is looking to continue the approach.

In Seattle, housekeeper Brenda Holland said she and her co-workers at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport only clean after guests check out. Ms. Holland, 27 years old, worked full time before the pandemic but said her hotel now calls her in only once or twice a week.

Ms. Holland cleans 13 rooms over a shift, often changing sheets on 26 beds, and said she was now taking prescription medication for shoulder pain. She makes \$18.64 an hour and no longer qualifies for health insurance because of her reduced hours.

“It’s backbreaking work,” Ms. Holland said. “Before we were tired, but not like this.”

The hotel didn’t return requests for comment. A spokesperson for Hilton, which owns the DoubleTree brand, said staffing levels at its properties are best assessed by individual hotels.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Worker rebellions rise over vax mandates</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://news.trust.org/item/20211102105819-xsgg8">https://news.trust.org/item/20211102105819-xsgg8</a>
GIST	<p>AUSTIN/SEATTLE, Nov 2 (Reuters) - In Wichita, Kansas, nearly half of the roughly 10,000 employees at aircraft companies Textron Inc and Spirit AeroSystems remain unvaccinated against COVID-19, risking their jobs in defiance of a federal mandate, according to a union official.</p> <p>"We're going to lose a lot of employees over this," said Cornell Adams, head of the local Machinists union district. Many workers did not object to the vaccines as such, he said, but were staunchly opposed to what they see as government meddling in personal health decisions.</p> <p>The union district has hired a Texas-based lawyer to assist employees and prepare potential lawsuits against the companies should requests for medical or religious exemptions to vaccination be denied.</p> <p>A life-long Democrat, Adams said he would no longer vote for the party. "They'll never get another vote from me and I'm telling the workers here the same thing."</p> <p>The clock is ticking for companies that want to continue gaining federal contracts under an executive order by Democratic President Joe Biden, which requires all contractor employees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Dec. 8.</p> <p>That means federal contract workers need to have received their last COVID-19 shot at least two weeks before the deadline to gain maximum protection, according to U.S. government guidance.</p>

With a three-week gap between shots of the Pfizer /BioNTech vaccine, workers must get the first jab by Wednesday. If the government holds fast to its deadline, it is already too late to choose Moderna's vaccine, which is given in two doses four weeks apart. Workers could opt to get Johnson & Johnson's single-shot vaccine until Nov. 24 to meet the deadline.

The mandate has stirred protests from workers in industries across the country, as well as from Republican state officials.

Opposition to the mandate could potentially lead to thousands of U.S. workers losing their jobs and imperil an already sluggish economic recovery, union leaders, workers and company executives said.

More legal clashes are likely over how companies decide requests for vaccination exemptions.

For the companies, time is getting tight, though the Biden administration has signaled federal contractors will not have to immediately lay off unvaccinated workers who miss the Dec. 8 deadline.

Under government guidance <https://www.saferfederalworkforce.gov/faq/contractors> published on Monday, companies will have flexibility over how to implement the mandate, which may allow them to avoid mass firings.

"A covered contractor should determine the appropriate means of enforcement with respect to its employee," the guidance said.

For Boeing Co in the United States, more than 7,000 workers have applied for religious exemptions and around 1,000 are seeking medical exemptions, people familiar with the matter told Reuters. That amounts to some 6% of the planemaker's roughly 125,000 U.S employees.

#### 'ILLEGAL, IMMORAL AND IMPRACTICAL'

At a rally last week outside Boeing property in Auburn, south of Seattle, many of the three dozen workers gathered in driving rain said they would rather be escorted off Boeing property on Dec. 8 than take a vaccine. Others said they would pursue early retirement.

"The mandate is illegal, immoral and impractical," said one veteran Boeing program analyst who attended the rally. "We are standing together against a company and government trampling on our rights."

Many legal experts have said vaccine mandates in the interest of public health are legal.

The rebellion has put Boeing executives in a bind. The company could lose skilled staff, but must comply with a presidential order.

A Boeing spokesperson said the company was committed to maintaining a safe working environment for its employees.

The order's provision for religious and medical exemptions is causing more tension.

Two Textron workers who requested religious exemptions told Reuters the company's human resources representatives quizzed them on the name of their church leaders and asked detailed questions about their faith.

Textron declined to respond to questions, but in a statement said it was obligated to comply with Biden's order and was taking steps to do so.

"Employees who are unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccination due to a medical condition or sincerely held religious belief are being provided an opportunity to request an accommodation from this requirement," Textron said.

Spirit AeroSystems did not respond to a request for comment.

Raytheon Technologies' CEO Greg Hayes last week warned the U.S. defense firm will lose "several thousand" employees because of the mandate.

A group representing FedEx Corp, United Parcel Service Inc and other cargo carriers said it would be virtually impossible to have all their workforces vaccinated by the deadline.

Some companies have imposed vaccine mandates even absent immediate government regulation.

Mercedes-Benz USA, the U.S. unit of German carmaker Daimler AG which is not a U.S. government contractor, told employees in an October email seen by Reuters that proof of vaccination against COVID-19 would become a condition of employment beginning Jan. 4.

The carmaker said it implemented the move in anticipation of a separate U.S. government vaccine mandate that would apply to businesses with at least 100 employees, affecting some 80 million workers nationwide.

Less than half of the company's workers at U.S. import processing centers are vaccinated and many refuse to get a shot, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Mercedes USA in a statement said it had given employees 90-day notice to fulfill the requirement, adding that two thirds of its U.S. employees - not including factory workers in Alabama - have provided proof of vaccination to date.

"We expect that the vast majority of our employees will provide proof of vaccination before the deadline," the company said.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Ecuador expands Galapagos Is. protection</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/world/americas/cop26-galapagos-islands.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/world/americas/cop26-galapagos-islands.html</a>
GIST	<p>In a bid to protect the Galápagos Islands, a volcanic Pacific archipelago where Charles Darwin saw a blueprint for the origin of every species, Ecuador's president said on Tuesday that his nation would expand the marine reserve around the natural treasures.</p> <p>"Today is a day that will remain in history for us, Ecuador, Galápagos and the world," President Guillermo Lasso said at the climate summit in Glasgow. "We are not only preserving the future of our country, but the entire humanity."</p> <p>The government has agreed with the fishery, tourism and conservation sectors to establish a new marine reserve of more than 23,000 square miles in the Galápagos Islands.</p> <p>Mr. Lasso said it would be added to an existing marine reserve of about 50,000 square miles.</p> <p>As climate change warms the world's oceans, these islands are a crucible, and scientists are worried. Not only do the Galápagos sit at the intersection of three ocean currents, they are also in the cross hairs of <a href="#">El Niño</a>, a climate phenomenon that can have wide-ranging effects on weather around the world.</p> <p>Research published in 2014 by more than a dozen climate scientists warned that rising ocean temperatures were making El Niño both more frequent and more intense. And UNESCO, the United Nations</p>



	<p>educational and cultural agency, <a href="#">says that the Galápagos Islands</a> are one of the places <a href="#">most vulnerable</a> to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>“This will not only strengthen the area’s biodiversity, but it will also bolster our combat against climate change,” Mr. Lasso said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 China: crime to mock Communist heroes</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/world/asia/china-slander-law.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/world/asia/china-slander-law.html</a>
GIST	<p>The young woman in Beijing began her post complaining about mobs gathering online, where recluses vent misogynistic insecurities from the safety of desk chairs. As provocative as it was, it might have passed unnoticed except that she added another beat.</p> <p>She mocked the toxic masculinity of users imagining themselves as <a href="#">Dong Cunrui</a>, a textbook war hero who, according to Chinese Communist Party lore, died valiantly during the civil war that brought the party to power in 1949.</p> <p>For that passing reference, the woman, 27 and identified in court only by her last name, Xu, was sentenced last month to seven months in prison.</p> <p>Her crime: violating a newly amended criminal code that punishes the slander of China’s martyrs and heroes. Since it went into effect in March, the statute has been enforced with a revolutionary zeal, part of an intensified campaign under China’s leader, Xi Jinping, to sanctify the Communist Party’s version of history — and his vision for the country’s future.</p> <p>The Cyberspace Administration of China, which polices the country’s internet, has created <a href="#">telephone and online hotlines</a> to encourage citizens to report violations. It has even published <a href="#">a list of 10 “rumors”</a> that are forbidden to discuss.</p> <p>Was Mao Zedong’s Long March really not so long? Did the Red Army skirt heavy fighting against the Japanese during World War II to save its strength for the civil war against the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek? Was Mao’s son, Mao Anying, killed by an American airstrike during the Korean War because he lit a stove to make fried rice?</p> <p>Asking those very questions risks arrest and, now, prosecution. “It is a sign of the establishment of an absolute political totalitarianism,” said Wu Qiang, an outspoken political analyst in Beijing.</p> <p>China’s Communist Party has long policed dissent, severely restricting public discussion of topics it deems to be politically incorrect, from Tibet to the Tiananmen Square protests. The new law goes further. It has criminalized as slander topics that were once subjects of historical debate and research, including Mao’s rule itself up to a point. Since March, the law has been used at least 15 times to punish slights to party history.</p> <p>The campaign reflects an ambition by Mr. Xi to solidify a moral foundation for the Communist Party’s supremacy, a theme the Chinese leader often evokes in speeches and articles.</p> <p>The party once could rely on the financial inducements of a booming economy and coercive control of the security state to cement its rule, but now appears to be using political and historical orthodoxy as a foundation, said Adam Ni, a director of the China Policy Center in Australia and editor of <a href="#">China Story</a>.</p> <p>“There are limits to these tools,” he said of the economy and security state. “They need the moral — the moral legitimacy to maintain their rule.”</p>

A version of the slander law was first adopted in 2018, but an amendment to the country's criminal code that took effect March 1 allowed prosecutors to seek criminal punishment, including prison sentences of up to three years.

In April, a 19-year-old man in Nanjing was charged for disparaging the victims of [the Japanese massacre](#) there in 1937. A 63-year-old man in Beijing was charged for mocking a Navy fighter pilot, Lt. Cmdr. Wang Wei, who crashed in the South China Sea after [colliding with an American surveillance aircraft](#) in 2001.

At least three people were detained in May for derisive comments following the death [Yuan Longping](#), a scientist who developed high-yield hybrid strains of rice.

Last month, the authorities arrested a man in Nanchang after he posted an irreverent comment about the legend surrounding the death of Mao's son in 1950. "That fried rice was the best thing to come out of the whole Korean War," he wrote.

Officials have defended the law as a necessary tool to fight what one director with the Cyberspace Administration of China, Wen Youhua, called "historical nihilism," which officials often use to describe deviant views.

"These people may be trying to gain clicks or eyeballs, but these behaviors obviously touch moral and legal bottom lines," Li Liang, [a law professor](#) in Beijing told [The People's Daily](#) in April.

Mr. Xi, preparing for what is likely to be a third term as Communist Party leader beginning next year, will use a gathering of the party elite in Beijing next week to adopt a new resolution on the party's history — an official summation of the past and its lessons. Among Chinese leaders, only Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping have enacted such decisions, underscoring the ambition of Mr. Xi's campaign.

"We need to educate and guide the whole party to vigorously carry forward the red tradition," Mr. Xi [said](#) earlier this year.

The tougher slander law took effect shortly after the disclosure by the government in February that [four Chinese soldiers](#) had died during a clash with Indian troops along [the disputed border](#) in June 2020. Within days, at least seven people were charged for questioning the official version of the death toll, which was reportedly much higher.

They included Qiu Ziming, a [prominent blogger](#) with 2.5 million followers on Weibo, the country's Twitter-like social media platform.

Although he and the others were arrested under a longstanding article in the criminal code called "picking quarrels and provoking troubles," Mr. Qiu, 38, was prosecuted under the new law, even though the changes went into effect 10 days after he made his comments.

In May, after being shown confessing on state television, he was sentenced to eight months in prison. The campaign has inspired vigilantism, with internet users calling out potential violations.

The Jiangsu branch of China Unicom, a state-owned telecommunications company, [came under investigation](#) after a public uproar started when its Weibo account posted a recipe for fried rice on what was Mao Anying's birthday. It is not clear whether the company faces criminal charges, but its account was suspended.

Some of the cases involved historical events that historians in China have previously debated and studied, at least until now.



Last month, a former journalist, Luo Changping, was [detained in Hainan](#) after he wrote a blog questioning the rationale for China's intervention in the Korean War — and the catastrophic cost for those “volunteers” sent to fight and die in it.

He was responding to [a new movie blockbuster](#) that depicts a major Chinese attack known as “The Battle at Lake Changjin.”

The movie, which runs 2 hours and 56 minutes, brims with maudlin patriotism for the selfless sacrifice of soldiers who defeated the American-led forces.

“Half a century later, few Chinese people have reflected on the justifiability of the war,” Mr. Luo wrote on Weibo, before referring specifically to a doomed Chinese military unit “that did not doubt the ‘wise decision’ of the top.”

Made with government backing and heavily promoted in state media, it has become the second-highest grossing film in the country's history, earning the equivalent of \$855 million in the month it has been showing, according to [Maoyan](#), the ticketing service.

When the film opened, Mr. Ni, the researcher, noted on Twitter that the battle it depicts had not previously been a focus of the Communist Party's propaganda before because it had been seen as a costly strategic blunder, not the resounding victory portrayed on the screen. Now it has become part of a new and unassailable version of history.

John Delury, a professor of Chinese studies at Yonsei University in Seoul and author of a forthcoming book about the war, said that even within the limits of political censorship, Chinese scholars have done “a lot of great work” on the war and other historical events since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

With the shifting political climate, that may no longer be safe.

“With this, obviously, everyone is going to have to stop what they're doing,” he said.

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HEADLINE	11/02 US reopening; travelers get set, ready--
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/travel/holiday-travel-tips.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/travel/holiday-travel-tips.html</a>
GIST	<p>When the Biden administration announced that vaccinated foreign travelers <a href="#">would be allowed to enter the United States starting Nov. 8</a>, it was as though a starting gun had been fired.</p> <p><a href="#">Skyscanner</a>, a travel booking site, saw an 800 percent spike in bookings the day after the announcement. In the week after the administration confirmed the date travelers could arrive, <a href="#">Expedia</a>, the online booking site, saw a 28 percent increase in searches for U.S. hotels from the United Kingdom and a 24 percent increase from France.</p> <p>And not only international tourism was given a boost. Experts said that the U.S. reopening signaled to American travelers that they could leave their homes this coming holiday season, too. Searches for outbound international travel on the booking application Hopper, for instance, have increased by 24 percent since the announcement, the highest uptick since the spring.</p> <p>“There's just something about the fact that we're lifting our borders that changes the perception of travel right now and makes people much more comfortable and confident in doing so,” said Misty Belles, a spokeswoman for <a href="#">Virtuoso</a>, a network of luxury travel agencies and advisers.</p> <p>Though the travel industry continues to face staffing and regulation challenges, the process of traveling is becoming smoother. Coronavirus tests are easier to book, and the process for checking documents at</p>

airports has been streamlined. But most important, travelers are becoming accustomed to the uncertainty, planning for rather than dreading it. If you're traveling this holiday season, here's what to expect. Start planning now.

Traveling during the pandemic requires both long- and short-term planning to secure flights and accommodations while leaving room for last-minute changes in regulations, flight schedules or coronavirus infection rates.

Travelers are either "booking for tomorrow or they're booking for next year," Ms. Belles said, adding that many travelers "want to get away, but they're kind of pushing it to the last minute just to make sure nothing changes."

Waiting can be expensive, as prices have increased across the industry and may continue to do so as international travel rebounds, Ms. Belles said. Travel agents also say that many top resorts, such as [Las Ventanas al Paraíso](#) in Los Cabos, Mexico; the [Four Seasons Resort Hualalai](#) in Hawaii; and [The Breakers](#) in Palm Beach, Fla., are booked for the holiday season, and that those who wait, particularly families with children, will have a smaller selection of places to stay. The app Hopper estimated that domestic airfare over Christmas would likely match 2019 prices, while international airfare is currently cheaper but likely to increase by December.

Still, Willis Orlando, a travel expert at [Scott's Cheap Flights](#), a service that tracks and emails flight deals to subscribers, said that travelers have an opportunity to snag low fares now, particularly on international flights, as airlines continue to scramble to match supply with demand, which has fluctuated according to travelers' sentiments about the virus or announcements of country reopenings.

"It's not going to be long-lived," Mr. Orlando said. "I think once the rest of the world opens up, those planes will get back to flying the old high-demand routes, but for now, it's a wonderful opportunity." Be prepared to adapt.

Ariel Vinson, 31, a digital content manager for a consumer packaged goods company in San Diego, went to Alaska at the beginning of October. It was her second trip there this year, and she is contemplating moving there.

But her trip was extended when she got Covid-19 a week in. She ended up having to stay an additional week, before flying home on Oct. 24.

"That was a wake-up call for me," she said. "I don't think it's going to stop me from traveling, but I think it'll make me think about my behaviors during travel," such as masking outdoors or being more cautious when interacting with strangers, which she had become more comfortable with since getting vaccinated this spring.

Sandra Torres, 32, who manages vendors at a biotech start-up in the Chicago area, said that the couple of times she had traveled by air this year, "the flights themselves were changed multiple times." A coming November trip to Hawaii, booked in the spring, was changed a month out, with one leg ultimately canceled. She had to rebook with another airline. A planned birthday trip to Tokyo, in February 2022, was recently canceled by the airline.

"It does make it harder to plan things," Ms. Torres said. "I've learned to be more flexible, to be more open. Even if you book things ahead of time, you might still have to change them."

She added that she's learned to "have more of a cushion, both financially and just around logistics and departure times."

#### **You may experience limited services.**

The experience of travel continues to be affected by staffing and other challenges. Your hotel's restaurant may be closed, for instance, and daily room cleaning is only available upon request in many places.

“That part of the business requires a lot more staffing than just the standard hotel operations,” Chip Rogers, the president of the [American Hotel & Lodging Association](#), said of hotel restaurants. “That’s where hotels are having to cut back, because they just don’t have enough people.”

Rental cars remain in short supply, and prices are high, in some cases double or triple prepandemic rates. Many concessions and businesses in airports are still closed, and airlines have canceled hundreds of flights in the last several months, including [recent cancellations by Southwest Airlines](#) and [American Airlines](#). As a result, customer satisfaction has dropped in both [the rental car](#) and [airport](#) industries, according to recent studies by the data and analytics firm J.D. Power.

Martina Johnson, 35, and her husband, Leslie, 40, who work in marketing and digital advertising in the greater New York City area and [document their travels on social media](#), are planning to spend a couple of weeks visiting family in the Midwest leading up to Thanksgiving.

But they decided to drive there rather than rent a car, because the prices were prohibitive. In the past, Ms. Johnson said, they paid \$50 to \$75 for a weekend car rental, while the price now would be closer to \$300. For two weeks, the price would have been nearly \$2,000.

“The price of rental cars is ridiculous,” she said. “We want the flexibility without worrying about the cost.”

Ski trips are on many people’s agendas this year. In a recent survey, 61 percent of respondents said they were replanning a ski trip they could not take last year. Credit...Daniel Bayer for The New York Times  
Ski and beach vacations are most popular.

People are still gravitating to outdoor travel, with the most popular destinations being domestic beach locations or the Caribbean and Mexico.

Megan Moncrief, the chief marketing officer for [Squaremouth](#), a travel insurance company, said that eight of the company’s 10 most popular international destinations were Caribbean countries.

“The Dominican Republic, Turks & Caicos and the U.S. Virgin Islands had never been top destinations during the holiday season, but they are this year,” she said, because those places have largely stayed open when other countries closed their borders.

Ski destinations are also seeing increased interest, said Natalia Sutin, the vice president of revenue management at [Vacasa](#), a vacation rental management company.

“People look for a festive atmosphere, and guests are looking to make up for ski trips from last year,” Ms. Sutin said. In a recent Vacasa survey, 61 percent of respondents said they were replanning a ski trip that they had intended to take last year but canceled.

Demand for ski destinations on [Vrbo](#), a vacation rental company, is also up more than [40 percent this winter compared to the same period in 2019](#), and up 31 percent compared to 2020.

Ms. Ness, who is spending Christmas in Aspen, Colo., said she booked her flight and rental car ahead of time because she “was worried about availability” and knew demand would be high.

### **Cities are preparing to welcome international travelers.**

The resumption of international travel to the U.S. on Nov. 8 is particularly important for cities, which derive significant revenue from and are a main attraction for foreign visitors.

“It’s so desperately needed in your gateway markets like New York, San Francisco, Boston, Washington, D.C.,” said Mr. Rogers of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. “Those are markets that really

depend on international travel, and those are also the same markets that have been hurt so bad during the pandemic.”

While only 3 percent of hotel bookings nationally come from international travelers, they account for 15 percent of hotel revenue because they stay longer and spend more money.

In Los Angeles, where international travelers were a quarter of overnight visitors and made up 50 percent of overall spending in 2019, bookings and search interest spiked after the reopening was announced, said Adam Burke, the president of the [Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board](#).

“We’re now seeing an acceleration of the recovery process,” he said. [Tourism Economics](#), a global travel data company, is projecting 1 million more visitors to Los Angeles by the end of the year and an additional \$1 billion in revenue from international travelers.

British Airways and its vacation-booking arm, British Airways Holidays, said that the desire to see friends and family for the holidays was driving a surge in searches for destinations in the United States, particularly in New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Chicago. Searches for Thanksgiving were up 2,000 percent this week over the previous week, the company said in an email, and searches for the days before Christmas were up 900 percent.

For domestic travelers, visiting the country’s urban centers could be cheaper than in the past. Expedia found that accommodations in cities are 10 to 35 percent cheaper than in 2019.

#### **Parents are becoming more comfortable traveling with children.**

The survey by Vacasa, the vacation rental management company, found that parents with children under 5 were more likely to say they were planning travel than non-parents, 65 percent compared to 41 percent. And road trips continue to be popular, with 72 percent of travelers saying that they will drive to their destinations.

“We do see that family travel is the trend this year,” said Ms. Sutin of Vacasa. “Most people are traveling with their spouse, children or immediate family.”

Katie Cherico, a travel adviser for [In the Know Experiences](#), a New York City-based agency, said that among her clients, families’ decisions around travel depend on their children’s ages. Those with children under 12, who until recently have not been eligible for vaccination, have been sticking to domestic or nearby resort destinations, like Puerto Rico, while those with vaccinated children 12 and over feel more comfortable traveling internationally. Immunization with the Pfizer vaccine was [approved for children 5 to 11 by the Food and Drug Administration](#) on Friday and, if approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may be rolled out as early as this week. That, is likely to boost traveler confidence just as the adult vaccine did in the spring.

Stephen Scott, a Chicago-based travel adviser for [Protravel International](#), added that cruises remain difficult for families with children under 12, because many cruise lines require that passengers be vaccinated and do not make exceptions for children. But these restrictions may be eased on Jan. 15, when the industry will no longer be required to follow federal Covid-19 rules, [the C.D.C. said in a statement](#).

#### **Holiday travel behaviors are shifting.**

Covid-19 safety concerns are still top of mind for travelers, keeping them close to home or preventing them from staying with relatives. While most people traveling for Thanksgiving, for example, are staying with family this year, the number is still lower than in 2019, dropping to 73 percent from 83 percent, [according to a recent survey by the market research company Morning Consult](#). Only 57 percent of people stayed with family in 2020, suggesting fears surrounding Covid-19 are lessening but still present.

Lindsey Roeschke, the firm’s travel and hospitality analyst, said that more than a quarter of survey respondents intended to stay masked during Thanksgiving, and that they may be choosing not to stay with

	<p>family to minimize the need for masking. She added that millennial parents, the group most likely to have young, unvaccinated children, planned to spend more on accommodation than other groups.</p> <p>Vaccination rates could also be affecting people's decisions to stay with or travel to visit family. In a survey by <a href="#">The Vacationer</a>, an online resource for travelers, one in three Americans said they were unwilling to celebrate the holidays with people who had not been vaccinated.</p> <p>Ms. Torres, the traveler who has had to deal with changing plans, said her family members' vaccination status was part of the reason she decided to stay home in Chicago for the holidays. She typically would have taken a trip to Mexico or El Salvador to visit relatives over Christmas and New Year's, but because of a lack of vaccine accessibility in those countries, several family members have not been fully vaccinated, and she decided not to risk it.</p> <p>The record number of pet adoptions during the pandemic is also influencing how people are traveling. Pet-friendliness was the top search priority for travelers in a new survey of 1,000 Americans across the U.S. by the analytics company <a href="#">Zeta Global</a>.</p> <p>"People are more interested in pet-friendly hotels than they are in clean hotels," said David Steinberg, the company's chief executive. "It's probably not even a metric that would've been on the radar two years ago."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Police agencies use bonuses, social media</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/police-staff-shortages-hiring-bonuses/281-fc1931d1-70c5-49ce-a06d-f1a844bbf304">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/police-staff-shortages-hiring-bonuses/281-fc1931d1-70c5-49ce-a06d-f1a844bbf304</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — New incentive bonuses of up to \$25,000 are on the table for new or experienced police officers hired by the Seattle Police Department (SPD).</p> <p>Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan announced the <a href="#">Emergency Civil Order</a> on Friday to address the ongoing officer shortage crisis.</p> <p>Because several agencies in Washington state offer a hiring bonus for experienced or "lateral" officers to come on board, the <a href="#">Seattle Police Department</a> has not been able to compete, according to Sgt. Randy Huserik.</p> <p>There were mixed reactions on whether the \$25,000 bonus will actually attract potential experienced candidates for both officer positions and the Community Safety and Communications Center.</p> <p>The Seattle Police Officers' Guild Board of Directors released a statement in reaction to Durkan's emergency order, saying in part, "dangling money to recruit new or lateral hires won't get the job done. Seattle cannot simply hire enough people to balance the loss of so many officers as other agencies across the nation are competing for those same jobs."</p> <p>Currently, the SPD is operating on its Stage 3 Mobilization Plan to keep up with call responses while the officer shortage continues.</p> <p>Huserik said a major part of the shortage is due to record-setting numbers in retirements.</p> <p>In July 2021, the department had 310 openings and since then, the city said only 62 officers have been hired.</p> <p>Huserik said the number of applicants has dwindled drastically over the past few years.</p> <p>Part of that may stem from how the public views law enforcement, according to Huserik, who said the SPD needs people who want change to apply.</p>

"For those people that talk about what they want law enforcement to look like, you know, we're asking those people to step up and perhaps becoming officers yourself and being a part of reimagining and changing law enforcement into what people say they want it to be and want it to look like," Huserik said.

Every law enforcement agency KING 5 spoke to said they understand there is an officer hiring crisis across the country.

Several departments across Washington state are down officers.

**Tukwila Police Department:**

In Tukwila, the police department has 66 officers on staff and are short 11, according to Officer Victor Masters, the public information officer for Tukwila Police.

Masters said [Tukwila Police](#) are currently offering a \$10,000 hiring bonus for qualified lateral (experienced officers). The department will also pay for travel expenses when a potential lateral candidate is coming to the area to apply and take the test.

Masters said between 60% and 70% of the department's officers are lateral hires and said this has created a good mix of experiences and backgrounds.

**Edmonds Police Department:**

In Snohomish County, the Edmonds Police Department has nine open police officer positions, according to Acting Assistant Chief Josh McClure.

McClure said a full staff would be 58.

Currently, Edmonds Police does not have a hiring bonus in place but [does offer other incentives](#).

McClure said all of the department's recent departures have been from retirements and that the biggest challenge for hiring new officers has been due to a lack of qualified applicants.

The department has been using social media, including several tweets in the past month, in an effort to attract new applicants.

**Pierce County Sheriff's Department:**

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) is also using social media while trying to get new applicants and experienced officers to apply.

Recruitment efforts for larger departments across Washington state include looking out of state for experienced police officers.

PCSD Sgt. Darren Moss said the problem with this strategy is that other law enforcement agencies across the country are doing the same thing.

Moss said Arizona State Police recruiters were spotted at this year's Washington State Fair, not far from where Pierce County Sheriff's recruiters were set up.

Pierce County recently granted approval to PCSD to increase the [lateral in-state deputy hiring bonus from \\$10,000 to \\$15,000](#).

Moss said the bonus increase will keep the department competitive with other agencies also offering incentives to lateral hires.

Currently, the PCSD is down about 40 full-time staff, according to Moss, who said the department's full staff total would be at 353.



Moss said the county's jail is also short with 27 staff openings.

This year, Moss said the department has hired a total of eight people when in past years, as many as 36 were hired.

Besides retirement hurting the total of deputies on patrol, Moss said police reform may be part of the reason fewer people are interested in becoming an officer. However, Moss said the department wants new members to be part of change going forward.

"You might think that there needs to be a change. But guess what, that change has got to be you," Moss said. "It's got to be the person that's going to put in the time, that's going to come and use their ethics and their values to impart on this profession and make it better."

**King County Sheriff's Office:**

In King County, [the King County Sheriff's Office \(KCSO\) needs about 54 deputies and 29 civilians](#), especially communications specialists for the 911 center, according to Sgt. Tim Meyer, the department's media relations officer.

Meyer said the KCSO is using social media, but it also hired a local company to help create targeted ads. The KCSO is also hosting virtual meetings so people can ask questions about becoming a deputy.

Meyer said the department is constantly hiring to keep up with the loss of deputies and other staff to retirement. The "accommodation process" for the county's COVID-19 vaccine mandate is still underway, which means the department is not yet sure if departures will happen.

The KCSO does not currently offer a hiring bonus, but Meyer said the department does not necessarily see a full benefit to that because there may be a risk of losing deputies after a short period of time to another agency.

The department is also looking for qualified applicants out of state.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Threat of eviction returns to renters
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/olympia/threat-of-eviction-returns-to-washington-renters-with-end-to-statewide-moratorium/281-e3cba1ab-f01f-46e2-8079-c9347c1a4931">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/olympia/threat-of-eviction-returns-to-washington-renters-with-end-to-statewide-moratorium/281-e3cba1ab-f01f-46e2-8079-c9347c1a4931</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — After nearly 20 months of protections, the threat of evictions has returned for renters across Washington state.</p> <p>The state's eviction moratorium ended Monday, bringing an end to a protection which shielded renters from losing their homes during the pandemic. Though the extension ends for the state, cities of Burien, Kenmore and Seattle have pushed their eviction moratoriums into January 2022.</p> <p>The statewide eviction moratorium was set to end Sept. 30. However, Gov. Jay Inslee pushed the date to Oct. 31. The move was meant to give counties across the state more time to distribute federal funds to tenants and landlords. Some counties have done well in distributing funds, while others are lagging behind.</p> <p>In the meantime, agencies across Washington have been working to connect renters and their landlords to resources.</p> <p>"Staff are working tirelessly to get money out to the community, both at our agencies and our partner agencies," said Mary Anne Dillon, executive director for the YWCA in Snohomish County. "It was as urgent today as it was a month ago or as it was a year ago."</p>

	<p>Census data shows nearly 8% of Washington renters are behind on their rent.</p> <p>"We have conversations with people every single day," Dillon said. "They are working one or two jobs. They are struggling, They are on payment plans, and they are really trying to get ahead in their rent."</p> <p>The YWCA has provided rental assistance for decades, but Dillon said the pandemic exacerbated a problem that existed long before the pandemic. She said wages aren't keeping up with housing costs in Washington.</p> <p>"In the Seattle, Everett, Bellevue area, you need to make at least \$30 an hour in order to afford a modest two bedroom apartment," she said.</p> <p>Though landlords can now legally pursue evictions, they must first offer their tenants payment plans and provide their tenants with access to resources which can help them avoid eviction.</p> <p>"We're trying to work with landlords in order to get resources to the tenants," Dillon said. She knows tenants aren't the only ones feeling the financial crunch. "There are plenty of resources in the community that landlords can access because we also talk to landlords and we know that they do not want to evict people, but they need to make ends meet too."</p> <p>With nearly one in 17 renters now facing eviction, Dillon hopes those needing help will continue to ask for it.</p> <p>"There are just so many agencies out in the community that are waiting to support you and your family and those around you," she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 SPOG: attrition 'decades to recover'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://mynorthwest.com/3213454/new-funding-old-animosity-spog-president-claims-spd-attrition-will-take-decades-to-recover/">https://mynorthwest.com/3213454/new-funding-old-animosity-spog-president-claims-spd-attrition-will-take-decades-to-recover/</a>
GIST	<p>Near the end of Jenny Durkan's tenure as mayor, she is bearing the brunt of Seattle Police Department's criticism — for handing them checks.</p> <p>To address the "immediate need" to fully staff SPD and emergency dispatch, Mayor Jenny Durkan has announced <a href="#">new hiring incentives</a> in the form of additional signing bonuses.</p> <p>While the order is ultimately subject to council approval, the measure is intended to ramp up staffing in light of 310 vacancies in SPD and 21 in Community Safety Communications (CSC), as of July 2021 (62 SPD and 17 CSC new hires are reported in 2017). Neither figure accounts for recent separations over the vaccine mandate, for which the Seattle Police Officer Guild (SPOG) attributes 130 officers taken off duty, a figure which encompasses exemption requests which have yet to reach decision.</p> <p>SPOG President Mike Solan has dismissed the order as an attempt to deflect blame away from her administration in light of "historic levels of crime, putting public safety into jeopardy," Solan told KIRO Radio's <a href="#">Dori Monson Show</a>.</p> <p>"Dangling money to recruit new or lateral hires won't get the job done," Solan <a href="#">wrote</a> in an SPOG Board of Directors press release Nov. 1. "Seattle cannot simply hire enough people to balance the loss of so many officers as other agencies across the nation are competing for those same jobs."</p> <p>"They're trying to optically look good as if they are championing employment for new police officers," Solan added in the interview. "But the reality is these same politicians caused this staffing crisis."</p>

<a href="#">Return to Top</a>	<p>Solan mentioned that SPD was deemed fully compliant in 2018 with the Department of Justice’s consent decree, something which he views as validation of the department’s reform and important context when discussing political movements that call for police defunding.</p> <p>“They said that this agency was the model, reformed agency for other police agencies across the nation to emulate,” Solan noted. “Days later, sadly, when George Floyd happened, these same politicians ran away from us as fast as they could.”</p> <p>“They caused this staffing crisis because of that political betrayal. And then now dangling money, to lateral hires and new hires, mind you who are competing with other agencies across the nation for their employment, isn’t going to get the job done. This could take decades to recover.”</p> <p>Solan characterized his department’s staffing issue as a “hemorrhage” which cannot be resolved with hiring bonuses.</p> <p>In the same SPOG release, Solan indicated that he is looking toward a new mayoral administration to ramp up SPD staffing to the level he considers appropriate. That release implies that the issue not only lies with increasing new hires, but improving relationships with current SPD officers.</p> <p>“SPOG would like to suggest to our current and soon to be newly elected politicians that if you want to hire new and lateral police officers, we suggest you also take care of your current officers,” the release continues. “These officers worked during the pandemic, are feeling the impacts of dangerous staffing levels and are without a union contract. SPOG is looking forward to working with our new mayor and the current/new city council members to remedy our city’s issues.”</p>
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HEADLINE	11/01 Governor, Seattle mayor in climate summit
SOURCE	<a href="https://mynorthwest.com/3212517/gov-inslee-climate-conference-glasgow/">https://mynorthwest.com/3212517/gov-inslee-climate-conference-glasgow/</a>
GIST	<p>The United Nations Climate Change Conference (<a href="#">COP26</a>) in Glasgow, Scotland, this week will feature a couple Washington leaders, including Governor Jay Inslee and Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan.</p> <p>The COP26 summit will bring parties together from around the world to “accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.” As the <a href="#">Associated Press explains</a>, the biggest names — including <a href="#">President Joe Biden</a> — take the stage Monday, and then they will leave. That’s when other government officials will work on the details.</p> <p>Over the weekend, on MSNBC, Gov. Inslee was asked if he sees the upcoming global climate summit in Glasgow as a “make-or-break moment.”</p> <p>“You cannot overstate the depth of this crisis,” Gov. Inslee said. “I really think that we need two things now to fight this crisis. Number one, we need to have a sense of imagination to really understand what we’re facing. It’s very difficult to imagine a different world — one where we don’t have forests, one where our shorelines are inundated, one where we are hit by floods — it’s hard to imagine but we got a taste of that last summer.”</p> <p>He pointed to wildfires that struck along the West Coast, along with unusually high temperatures, droughts, and flooding in the Midwest.</p> <p>“We got a taste of what the future is. But it’s just a taste of the looming, unfortunately, disaster movie that we face,” he said.</p> <p>“But number two [of] what we need is a sense of optimism that we can bring these new technologies to bear to grow jobs and grow economic growth in our country and our state, because we’re doing it,” he added.</p>

There are 25 states that are part of a climate alliance, including Washington, which Gov. Inslee says have adopted measures that go beyond what will happen in the reconciliation work from Congress. Those states have some of the largest economic growth as well, he noted.

“This is a moment to really understand that we need to adopt both an understanding of the criticality of this and a can-do attitude. In Glasgow, you’re going to see that,” the governor said.

On Monday, Mayor Durkan announced [an executive order](#) directing departments in the City of Seattle to accelerate action toward net zero emission buildings, healthy and equitable transportation, and clean energy workforce development. These actions are projected to reduce the city’s building carbon emissions by an additional 27% by 2050.

“From a new normal of smoky summers and dangerous heat in Seattle, I have never seen the impacts of climate change that we are now facing,” Durkan said. “We’ve invested billions to support green transportation, efficient buildings, and other policies to mitigate climate change, but we know we need to do more to reach net zero. Cities are leading the way to take real action — our work in the last four years is making a commitment to reduce our building emissions by nearly 50% and lead the nation on climate justice and equity.”

Included in the order from the mayor is an expansion of free transit for Seattle Public Schools students, and an expansion of Seattle’s Stay Healthy Streets, as well as taking legislative and permitting action to incentivize electrification, and launching a \$1 million pilot to convert heavy-duty diesel trucks operating in the Duwamish Valley to electric.

The announcement was made in a virtual press conference with Durkan speaking from COP26, where she is representing the city of Seattle.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Record warm in East yields to jarring cold
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2021/11/01/october-record-warm-east-whiplash/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2021/11/01/october-record-warm-east-whiplash/</a>
GIST	<p>Much of October was shockingly warm in the eastern United States, and now this same region faces a different shock: Abnormally chilly weather is pouring into the region.</p> <p>High temperatures are reversing from much above average to well below, swinging 20 to 25 degrees in some areas compared to last week, a jarring dose of weather whiplash.</p> <p>Many areas will see their first frosts and freezes of the fall over the next week, arriving at or near their latest dates on record. Some spots will even see snow.</p> <p><b>Just how warm October was</b></p> <p>From the Great Lakes to the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, October temperatures averaged 5 to 9 degrees above their norms.</p> <p>Numerous locations had their warmest October on record, including Milwaukee, Toledo, Columbus, Washington Dulles, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Pa., Scranton, Syracuse, Newark and New Haven.</p> <p>Unusually mild nights were especially pervasive, with most locations from Chicago eastward seeing their warmest October minimum temperatures on record, about 7 to 10 degrees above average.</p> <p>October was more like a “second September,” <a href="#">tweeted</a> Kathryn Prociv, a meteorologist for NBC News. Indeed, in many cities, the average low temperatures in October this year were not far off long-term September averages.</p>

Chicago and Boston, among other locations, waited longest on record to experience low temperatures below 50 degrees. Caribou, Maine, had its latest first freeze on record by eight days, [not falling to 32 degrees until Oct. 25](#).

A persistent bulge in the jet stream over eastern North America supported the unusual and prolonged mild weather. The warm weather almost certainly got an assist from human-caused climate change, which has steadily increased temperatures in the region over time.

Ocean temperatures off the coast of the Northeast hovered near the highest levels on record late in October.

### **The incoming cold**

The bulge in the jet stream in the eastern United States is flipping to a dip, allowing Arctic air to spill southward. The first in a pair of cold fronts swept through Sunday into Monday. A second, reinforcing front will pass Tuesday into Wednesday.

Temperatures over the first week of November are predicted to average 3 to 9 degrees below normal in the same areas that were so mild in October. This means highs mostly in the 30s and 40s in the Great Lakes, 40s in the interior Northeast, and near 50 along Interstate 95 from Washington to Boston. Last week, 60s were prevalent.

Freeze watches have been posted for Tuesday night in the Central Appalachians and southern and eastern Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, cold rain could even change to snow in some of the high terrain of western Maryland and eastern West Virginia above 3,000 feet. Several inches could accumulate.

Forecast radar Tuesday morning shows snow over the high elevations of eastern West Virginia, western Maryland and southwest Pennsylvania; from the high-resolution NAM model.

Meanwhile, lake-effect snow is predicted downwind of Lake Ontario from Wednesday into Thursday in western New York. [Flakes could fly in Syracuse](#), which has seen a record number of days at or above 70 degrees in 2021. During October, its weather most closely resembled typical conditions in Philadelphia, 220 miles to the southeast.

The chilly weather pattern, however, may not have much staying power. After Monday or Tuesday of next week, computer models project a milder pattern return to the central and eventually eastern United States with above-average temperatures for several days.

Sometime after Veterans Day, another blast of cold could return to the East as November promises to be a volatile month with lots of temperature swings.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 DOH: 730,108 cases, 8659 deaths</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article255462671.html">https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/coronavirus/article255462671.html</a>
GIST	<p>The Washington state Department of Health reported 4,673 new COVID-19 cases and 31 deaths over the weekend.</p> <p>As of Monday, statewide totals from the illness caused by the coronavirus are 730,108 and 8,659 deaths. Those numbers are up from 725,435 cases and 8,628 deaths as of Friday. The case total includes 85,954 infections listed as probable. DOH revises previous case and death counts daily.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Hospitalizations rate plateau much higher</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/covid-infection-hospitalization-rates-in-washington-begin-to-plateau-at-levels-that-are-too-high-hospital-leaders-say/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/covid-infection-hospitalization-rates-in-washington-begin-to-plateau-at-levels-that-are-too-high-hospital-leaders-say/</a>
GIST	<p>Washington state's COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates have steadily declined for weeks, but that encouraging trend is starting to level off, hospital leaders said Monday.</p> <p>Hospitals reported a daily average of 1,007 COVID patients statewide Monday, compared with 1,013 a week ago, a decrease of less than 1%, said Taya Briley, executive vice president of the Washington State Hospital Association. Hospitalization counts are based on a seven-day rolling average.</p> <p>After a wave of the infectious delta variant peaked in early September, hospitalizations were decreasing by about 15% per week, according to the state Department of Health.</p> <p>"We don't like where we are plateauing," Briley said at a news briefing. "We don't know if cases are going to go up or down from here."</p> <p>Briley added that the state is plateauing at "much higher" levels than last winter, when hospitals were counting an average of about 300 COVID hospitalizations on a given day.</p> <p>Intensive care units are about 87% full statewide, and hospitals have counted about 12 to 15 COVID deaths per day in the past week. As of late October, COVID patients were about 15% of general hospital occupancy.</p> <p>At Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, Dr. Karthikeyan Muthuswamy said Monday about 10% of beds are being used by COVID patients.</p> <p>"Ten percent doesn't seem like a lot, but it affects our operations quite a bit," said Muthuswamy, an emergency department physician at VMFH's St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lakewood. "We have to make sure those rooms are isolated. The amount of time it takes to take care of those patients (is) higher. Some of those rooms are double rooms and we can't use them as double rooms anymore."</p> <p>He continued, "Because of this, we're stretched to capacity."</p> <p>At VMFH, Muthuswamy said about 60 emergency department patients systemwide are sitting in hallway beds or other temporary locations because they're out of space. About 10% are "ICU-level" patients, he said.</p> <p>Despite the slowing rates of decline, hospital leaders said Monday they're looking forward to news this week on childhood vaccinations, which are expected to roll out within days pending guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency-use authorization last week for Pfizer's shots for kids ages 5 to 11. Approval for Moderna's shot for teens and kids, however, could be delayed for months as U.S. regulators study the rare risk of heart inflammation.</p> <p>Advisers to the CDC are meeting Tuesday to discuss recommendations for Pfizer's kid-sized vaccine dose, with a final decision by the agency's director expected afterward.</p> <p>Dr. John Hawes, a pediatrician at Swedish's West Seattle clinic, said Monday that parents should only be worried about whether their child can be vaccinated if their child has a history of severe allergic reactions to immunizations.</p> <p>"This is pretty rare," he said. "Almost everyone in this age group can be vaccinated."</p> <p>Hawes and other pediatricians in the Monday panel urged parents to get their kids vaccinated as soon as possible, especially as flu season pushes forward.</p>



	<p>“These vaccines will make our schools safer, keep the kids in our community healthy and make it easier for kids to ... not worry about quarantining,” Hawes said.</p> <p>Still, hospital leaders are recommending keeping holiday gatherings small.</p> <p>“It’s so hard for me to tell people two years in a row, ‘Don’t go see your family,’” Muthuswamy said. “Just please be careful. Take the right precautions. Keep gatherings as small as possible.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/02 Car shortages put global economy at risk</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/business/how-car-shortages-are-putting-the-worlds-economy-at-risk/">https://www.seattletimes.com/business/how-car-shortages-are-putting-the-worlds-economy-at-risk/</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Turmoil in the auto industry, a powerful engine of the global economy, is threatening growth and sending tremors through companies and communities that depend on carmakers for money and jobs.</p> <p>For every car or truck that does not roll off an assembly line in Detroit, Stuttgart or Shanghai, jobs are in jeopardy. They may be miners digging ore for steel in Finland, workers molding tires in Thailand, or Volkswagen employees in Slovakia installing instrument panels in SUVs. Their livelihoods are at the mercy of supply shortages and shipping chokeholds that are forcing factories to curtail production.</p> <p>The auto industry accounts for about 3% of global economic output, and in carmaking countries like Germany, Mexico, Japan or South Korea, or states like Michigan, the percentage is much higher. A slowdown in automaking can leave scars that take years to recover from.</p> <p>The shock waves from the semiconductor crisis, which is forcing virtually all carmakers to eliminate shifts or temporarily shut down assembly lines, could be strong enough to push some countries into recession. In Japan, home of Toyota and Nissan, parts shortages caused exports to fall by 46% in September compared with a year earlier — a potent demonstration of the car industry’s importance to the economy.</p> <p>“It’s a very meaningful drag on growth and employment,” said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.</p> <p>Paul Jacques is among the people who may be most profoundly affected. He works in Tecumseh, Ontario, for a division of components supplier Magna International, which makes seats for a nearby Chrysler minivan factory.</p> <p>Jacques, 57, was on the assembly line when he heard that Stellantis, Chrysler’s parent company, planned to eliminate a shift in Windsor, Ontario, because of shortages of semiconductors, the computer chips essential to cruise control systems, engine management and a host of other functions.</p> <p>Jacques and his co-workers knew that their jobs were in danger, too. “The mood became incredibly somber,” said Jacques, whose two children also work at the seat factory.</p> <p>Carmakers have been able to blunt some of the sting by raising prices, passing on some of the pain to car buyers. Ford and General Motors last week both reported big drops in sales and profits for the summer period, but raised their profit forecasts for the full year. Daimler, the maker of Mercedes-Benz cars, said Friday that its net profit rose 20% in the third quarter even though the company sold 25% fewer vehicles. Higher sticker prices more than compensated.</p> <p>The pain is falling hardest on workers and anyone in need of an affordable car. Auto companies have been allocating scarce chips to high-end and other vehicles that generate the most profit, leading to long waits for less expensive vehicles. Used car prices are skyrocketing because of the lack of new cars.</p> <p>Vehicles with high profit margins like Ford F-150 or Chevy Silverado pickups “are continuing to get pumped out,” said Ram Kidambi, a partner at consulting firm Kearney who is based in Detroit. “But</p>

vehicles that have lower margins are getting impacted, and therefore the workforce there is getting impacted.”

The crunch started last year as the prices of key raw materials like steel and copper began climbing, said Viren Popli, CEO of Mahindra Ag North America, an arm of the giant Indian vehicle manufacturer that makes tractors for the United States market.

The world’s uneven bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic meant that the far-flung links of the global supply chain were out of sync and could not connect. By late summer, the United States was starting to deliver booster shots, while a devastating outbreak in Malaysia shut down factories.

Mahindra quickly gobbled up its existing inventory of parts and then had to wait for refills. But they were delayed in ports with hundreds of ships backed up and container costs spiraling to \$20,000 from \$3,000.

At a tractor assembly plant in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, Popli said, “we lost 25% of production for two months in a row because of container flow problems” at the port in Long Beach, California.

It’s difficult to calculate just how much auto industry problems will spread to the rest of the economy, but there is little doubt that the effect is enormous because so many other industries depend on carmakers. Auto manufacturers are big consumers of steel and plastic, and they support vast supplier networks as well as restaurants and grocery stores that feed autoworkers.

“If the Windsor plant is not working, everybody feels the effects,” said David Cassidy, president of Unifor Local 444, which represents workers who build Chrysler minivans there.

Car factories — like the Stellantis facility in Ontario — are often the biggest private-sector employers in their communities, making shutdowns all the more devastating. Because car plants tend to dominate the local economy, they are difficult to replace. Unemployment caused by car factory shutdowns persists for years, according to a study in 2019 by the International Monetary Fund.

In Eisenach, Germany, a city of 42,000, Opel builds a compact SUV called the Grandland. But Stellantis, which also owns Opel, shut down the factory in October and doesn’t plan to restart production until next year. Workers are fearful that the shutdown could be permanent; Stellantis also produces the Grandland at a factory in France that continues to operate.

The roughly 2,000 people who work at the Eisenach factory or adjacent suppliers are on paid furlough. But Katja Wolf, the mayor of Eisenach, who joined a worker protest in front of the plant Friday, said people were reluctant to spend because they don’t know when the plant will reopen. That hurts local businesses.

Semiconductors are not the only components in short supply. Carmakers are also scrounging for the type of plastic used to hold windshield wiper fluid and mold the dashboard as well as the foam used to construct seats, said Dan Hearsch, managing director in the Detroit office of the global consulting firm AlixPartners.

Because there is a shortage of a tiny bracket used in SUVs, Hearsch said, the amount of time it takes to fix a vehicle damaged in a crash has shot up to nearly 20 days, from 12.

AlixPartners estimates that shortages mean that 7.7 million fewer vehicles will be produced this year, costing the industry \$210 billion in lost revenues.

A relatively small number of countries account for most of the world’s production of autos and auto parts. They include the United States and China, as well as smaller countries like Thailand.

Slovakia, with only 5.4 million people, is home to large Volkswagen, Peugeot and Kia factories and produces 1 million cars a year, more per capita than any other country. The industry accounts for more than one-third of Slovakia’s exports.

	<p>The longer that shortages persist, the deeper the economic effect. Modern economies need vehicles to function. Trucks, essential to moving goods, are hard to come by these days, a constraint on growth.</p> <p>“We are basically sold out in Western Europe and North America until next year,” Martin Daum, the head of Daimler’s trucks unit, said, citing the chip shortage.</p> <p>There is no sign the crisis will end soon. Semiconductor-makers have promised to increase supply, but building new factories takes years and car companies are not necessarily the most important customers.</p> <p>“Semiconductor manufacturers are going to give priority to the Apples and HPs of the world,” said Gad Allon, a professor at the Wharton School, “not a Ford.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Lawsuit over CHOP shooting dismissed</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/federal-lawsuit-against-seattle-over-chop-shooting-death-dismissed/281-9d994bcc-c438-4b96-90b7-c94f151fb544">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/federal-lawsuit-against-seattle-over-chop-shooting-death-dismissed/281-9d994bcc-c438-4b96-90b7-c94f151fb544</a>
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — A federal lawsuit against the City of Seattle over the fatal shooting of a 19-year-old man in the former Capitol Hill Occupied Protest zone was dismissed.</p> <p>On Monday, U.S. District Judge John Coughenour ruled the family of Horace Lorenzo Anderson didn't prove that the city's actions led to his death.</p> <p>Anderson’s mother, Donnitta Sinclair, claimed the protest zone known as CHOP “invited lawlessness and created foreseeable danger” and that Seattle Police and Seattle Fire first responders in the area that night “failed to assist because of botched communication.” The lawsuit claimed the city violated the 14th Amendment and acted negligently.</p> <p>Judge Coughenour ruled none of the city's actions, which included police abandoning the East Precinct, were specific to Anderson, nor was there "deliberate indifference" toward his welfare.</p> <p>Sinclair's attorney said they plan to appeal. A state claim remains active.</p> <p>"First, I'm confident we will prevail on appeal because this decision undermines government accountability and public safety," said Mark Lindquist with the Herrmann Law Group. "Secondly, Donnitta [Sinclair] still has state claims in addition to this federal claim. We will continue to pursue justice and accountability. Today’s decision was a small skirmish in a bigger battle."</p> <p>Horace Lorenzo Anderson was shot and killed in the early morning hours of June 20 near Cal Anderson Park, inside the area of Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood that was occupied by protestors for weeks, after Seattle police abandoned the department’s East Precinct.</p> <p>Marcel Levon Long <a href="#">was arrested by U.S. marshals</a> in July and charged with first-degree murder.</p> <p>The CHOP — and its first name, CHAZ, which was short for the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone — popped up during the ongoing racial justice protests last summer. It remained for several weeks with barricades before police <a href="#">cleared the area at the start of July</a> and reclaimed the East Precinct.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Southern border deaths soar; shatter record</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/border-deaths-soar-2021-sets-record-most-migrant-f/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/border-deaths-soar-2021-sets-record-most-migrant-f/</a>
GIST	The Border Patrol counted 557 migrant deaths along the southern border over the past year, shattering the previous record and putting a body count on the ongoing illegal immigrant surge.

The situation could have been worse but for heroic efforts by agents, who set a record for rescues, with 12,854. That was more than twice the number recorded in fiscal 2020, which had been the record-holder.

Experts say it's a matter of numbers.

Border Patrol agents caught more people attempting the crossing in fiscal 2021 than in any previous fiscal year. More people trying means more risky attempts and more people dying.

"The simple fact is when you're dealing with as many people as we're currently dealing with, you're going to have more deaths, you're going to have more rescues," said [Brandon Judd](#), president of the National Border Patrol Council.

The 557 deaths easily topped the record year of 2005, when agents counted 492 deaths. In fiscal 2020, just 247 deaths were tallied, and in 2019, during the previous migrant surge, 300 deaths were recorded.

The deaths span the U.S.-Mexico boundary and include everything from exposure to the elements to falling off the border wall, which has grown in frequency as the barrier was extended and built higher over the past four years.

Catastrophic vehicle crashes also have soared as smugglers increasingly try to make a break for it, leading authorities on high-speed chases. Drownings in the Rio Grande also have risen, particularly in areas such as Del Rio, which used to be among the quieter parts of the border but has become a focal point for the current migrant surge.

Del Rio and the Big Bend and El Paso sectors, which cover western Texas and New Mexico, each set records for deaths in fiscal 2021, which ended Sept. 30.

The deaths are tragedies for families, and Mr. Judd said they take a toll on agents, too.

Answers are tougher to come by.

"The only way it stops is if you put policies in place that don't incentivize illegal immigration," Mr. Judd said.

Fiscal 2022, which began Oct. 1, has picked up right where the previous year left off.

Over the weekend, the Border Patrol announced the death of a woman who drowned while trying to swim around the border barrier that stretches into the Pacific Ocean in San Diego.

Agents received a tip that as many as 70 people were making a mass attempt to swim around the barrier just before midnight Friday. They nabbed 36 adults and pulled the unresponsive woman from the water.

"This is yet another example of the ruthless tactics smuggling organizations use to bolster their power and profits," Aaron Heitke, chief patrol agent in the San Diego area, said in a statement.

He said the agency will try to catch those responsible for the mass swim.

Around 5 a.m. Thursday, a migrant died after running off a steep cliff in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Agents said they spotted three people walking through a field and responded. When they turned on their flashlights, the migrants ran toward brush that concealed the cliff. Two migrants went over the edge. One was dead at the scene and the other was critically injured, agents said.

Smugglers responsible for migrant deaths can pay dearly.

Prosecutors last month won a 30-year prison sentence against Jorge Luis Monsivais, who was ferrying 13 illegal immigrants through Dimmit County, Texas, in 2018.

As Monsivais, 23, fled from agents and local sheriff's deputies, he crashed the Chevrolet Suburban he was driving, ejecting some of the migrants. Four were dead at the scene, a fifth died en route to the hospital, and others were left with broken necks, hips and head trauma.

U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff called the case "heartbreaking" and said the severe sentence should send a message to would-be smugglers.

But plenty of people are still lining up for the chance to smuggle and make big money. The Washington Times database of smuggling cases shows a typical going rate of \$1,000 per illegal immigrant smuggled from the border deeper into the U.S.

Short of solving the border surge, there is probably not much the government can do to solve drowning deaths. Short of changing policies to prevent vehicle pursuits, there's little that can be done to curtail traffic deaths.

But the Department of Homeland Security has invested in rescue beacons and surged its own medical response teams to try to cut the number of deaths from exposure or severe illnesses in those coming across the border.

In the Rio Grande Valley, the deadliest Border Patrol sector along the U.S.-Mexico boundary, Homeland Security was working this fall to double the number of rescue beacons to 48. The El Paso sector, where deaths jumped from 10 in 2020 to 38 in 2021, is looking to add 15 beacons this year, bringing its total to 20.

Not all rescues are illegal immigrants.

Finding lost hikers in southwestern deserts or remote forests of the northwest are regular occurrences.

In one case in September, agents dove into the Pacific Ocean to rescue a Mexican man who had been swimming on the Mexican side of Friendship Park, the binational beach that spans the border in San Diego and Tijuana. A rip current pulled the man past the border barrier and toward the U.S. side. It left him fatigued and struggling to stay above the surface.

Agents called lifeguards but became worried that the man wouldn't survive until their response, so they swam through the dangerous currents to bring him in. He was given first aid and returned to Mexico.

Mr. Judd said water rescues are the most concerning for agents. Vehicle pursuits can be dangerous, but agents can train for that.

Jumping into swirling waters, though, leaves agents at the mercy of the elements.

"That's probably the most dangerous situation," Mr. Judd said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 US climate goal: other nations pump oil
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/team-biden-goes-defense-over-mixed-signals-energy/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/team-biden-goes-defense-over-mixed-signals-energy-/</a>
GIST	Team Biden had to play defense Monday after suffering a self-inflicted dent to his reputation ahead of the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, when he urged other major energy producers to pump more oil.

Climate czar John Kerry insisted there was “no inconsistency” between the administration’s aggressive climate change position and Mr. Biden’s effort to persuade OPEC and Russia to open up supply amid a global energy crisis.

“It’s just not inconsistent,” Mr. Kerry said in a conference call with reporters. “If it were, if he were asking them to boost their production over five years, I’d quit. But he’s not. He’s asking them to boost production in this immediate moment.”

The day before, Mr. Biden played defense at the end of the Group of 20 meeting of leaders of industrial and emerging-market nations in Rome, where he made the plea for more fossil fuel. Although he agreed that “on the surface, it seems like an irony,” he said it wasn’t inconsistent at all.

“But the truth of the matter is — you’ve all known; everyone knows — that the idea we’re going to be able to move to renewable energy overnight and not have — from this moment on, not use oil or not use gas or not use hydrogen is just not rational,” Mr. Biden said.

He said that the world is “going to stop subsidizing those fossil fuels,” but that it wasn’t realistic to stop using them immediately.

He added that “the idea that Russia and Saudi Arabia and other major producers are not going to pump more oil so people can have gasoline to get to and from work, for example, is not right.”

What galls his critics, led by Republicans, is the specter of Mr. Biden pleading with the OPEC nations and Moscow to turn on the spigots amid a pandemic surge in demand after taking a scythe to U.S. producers.

Shortly after taking office, Mr. Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline project and placed a moratorium on new fossil-fuel leases on federal lands and waters, undercutting domestic production and depressing investment.

Since January, U.S. gasoline prices have soared by 40%, creating pain at the pump for U.S. consumers and taking a toll on Mr. Biden’s poll numbers.

“And, by the way, when the cost of a gallon of gasoline gets to above ... \$3.35 a gallon, it has [a] profound impact on working-class families just to get back and forth to work,” Mr. Biden said. “So, I don’t see anything inconsistent with that.”

Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, blasted what she described as the Biden administration’s “rank hypocrisy” on energy.

“It’s rank hypocrisy to do everything to squelch American oil production, which sends working-class jobs overseas while asking Russia and OPEC to increase their production,” she said. “The effects of President Biden’s climate policies — high prices, scarcity, lost jobs — are already coming home to roost.”

She said Americans could “expect more of the same if these policies are not reversed and the House’s reconciliation bill passes.”

“American is following the misguided climate lead of Europe which will only boost our enemies in China and Russia who aren’t buying into failed policies that kill manufacturing and energy production,” Ms. Sgamma said.

Mr. Biden also apologized for a lack of U.S. leadership on climate change, referring to President Trump’s decision to exit the 2015 Paris Agreement.

“I guess I shouldn’t apologize, but I do apologize for the fact [that] the United States, the last administration, pulled out of the Paris accord and put us sort of behind on the eight-ball,” Mr. Biden said.



	<p>The president has vowed to reduce U.S. emissions 50% to 52% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 to help limit global temperature increase to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, the goal of the Paris accord.</p> <p>Mr. Kerry said the president’s “Build Back Better” plan, which was recently cut from \$3.5 trillion to \$1.75 trillion amid infighting from moderate and left-wing Democrats, would reduce U.S. reliance on fossil fuels.</p> <p>“We’re all trying to facilitate the transition,” said Mr. Kerry. “And as the transition cuts in, there won’t be that need as you deploy the solar panels, as you deploy the transmission lines, as you build out the grid.”</p> <p>He acknowledged the political realities surrounding higher fuel prices, saying that “if life is so miserable that you don’t, and the prices go up and other things happen, you’re going to lose — I think it becomes more challenging to get the job done.”</p> <p>Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, the ranking Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, accused Mr. Biden of “punishing America’s economy while pretending to protect the environment.”</p> <p>“The president wants to kill abundant and affordable U.S. energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal that Americans depend on,” he said in a Monday statement. “The White House’s plan is a recipe for disaster. It will result in skyrocketing power bills, less reliable energy, and fewer jobs for the American people. Shutting down the United States’ economy won’t fix climate change. It will only enrich China.”</p>
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<b>HEADLINE</b>	<b>11/01 Activists: do not trust Brazil’s promises</b>
<b>SOURCE</b>	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/01/do-not-trust-brazils-greenwashing-promises-say-amazon-activists">https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/01/do-not-trust-brazils-greenwashing-promises-say-amazon-activists</a>
<b>GIST</b>	<p>Amazon forest defenders are urging delegates at Cop26 not to trust the “greenwashing” promises of Jair Bolsonaro’s government, which has wreaked havoc on the environment over the past three years.</p> <p>Brazil will field one of the biggest delegations at the UN climate talks in Glasgow and fund a lavish promotional pavilion inside the conference centre. According to the agriculture minister, Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, and the environment minister, Joaquim Alvaro Pereira Leite, the message is that Brazil is “a longtime champion of the environmental agenda and an agrifood powerhouse”.</p> <p>But climate activists say the world should pay more attention to the destructive policies of the recent past than vague promises about the future, which they say are aimed at securing cash.</p> <p>Suely Vaz, a former head of the environment regulator Ibama who now works for the Climate Observatory, said the Brazilian government had gutted forest protection agencies and tried to change the law in favour of farmers and land grabbers.</p> <p>“Nowadays Brazil has an anti-environmental policy. They are paralysing everything. Deforestation and forest fires are out of control. This must change to ensure that climate money – which is important for our country – can be used in very detailed, specified way,” she said.</p> <p>Carlos Rittl, a senior policy adviser at the Rainforest Foundation Norway, said Brazil should not get away with a makeover that aimed to shake its pariah reputation under Bolsonaro. “It will be the biggest team ever. They are spending a lot on communications. Agriculture and industry will be there and a big comms team trying to sell the world a different image. But the world needs to hold Brazil accountable to the truth. The satellites don’t lie.”</p> <p>Satellite images show deforestation is at its highest level since 2012. More than 10,000 square kilometres were lost in the 12 months to July – an area nearly seven times bigger than greater London, and an</p>

increase of 57% on the previous year. Scientists say the rainforest is approaching an irreversible tipping point after which it would degrade into a dry savannah.

Every nation is supposed to come to Glasgow with a more ambitious climate plan so the world can move closer to the Paris agreement's goal of holding global heating as close to 1.5C as possible. The vast majority of governments have promised stronger action, but when Brazil updated its national climate plan last December it weakened its targets and allowed an extra 400 megatonnes of emissions. Climate Action Tracker rated this "highly insufficient".

Brazil has often proved a key player at climate talks and its negotiating team is highly respected. Since Bolsonaro took power, however, the country has become notorious for nationalist, anti-globalist policies. One of its first acts was to abandon plans to host the 2019 Cop. At the subsequent meeting in Madrid, the NGO Climate Action Network presented Brazil with the "colossal fossil" award for least progressive country.

At Glasgow, Brazil will show a less fractious face. This is largely due to the shift in Washington. While Donald Trump was in the White House, Bolsonaro was emboldened to denigrate international cooperation on the world stage. Since Joe Biden came to power, he has been forced to drop his two most globally toxic representatives: the former foreign minister Ernesto Araújo, and the former environment minister Ricardo Salles. The new environment minister, Joaquim Leite, who will head the Brazilian delegation at Glasgow, is far more personable, but activists say he has done little to change the destructive policies of his predecessor.

At Biden's climate summit earlier this year, Bolsonaro promised to meet a goal set by one of his presidential predecessors, Dilma Rousseff, to halt illegal deforestation by 2030. But this threatens to become meaningless because his supporters in Congress are trying to change the law to allow more legal forest clearance and invasions of indigenous land, which is usually the best-protected territory.

Inside Brazil, the heat is growing on Bolsonaro, who faces reelection next year. The economy is weak, his ratings are down and the senate wants to try him over the country's 600,000-plus Covid deaths. Many in the agribusiness sector fear they will lose markets if the president continues to sully the country's overseas image. Some farmers realise the rainfall for their crops depends on a stable Amazon rainforest.

Concessions are possible at Glasgow. Some observers expect Brazil to announce a green growth policy, tweak its national climate plan and compromise on one of the most contentious areas of the climate talks, the "article 6" debate on a market mechanism for climate action. This could unlock billions of dollars in carbon credits and other incentives.

A focus of Brazil's delegation is the potential market for carbon, methane and conservation credits. These forms of financial support are intended to protect and restore the world's great forests. This is a key goal of the UK hosts, who hope to announce a deal on Tuesday that would detail measures to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030, including greater support for indigenous peoples, moves towards deforestation-free supply chains, finance and regulations. The EU, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have agreed to this deal. Brazil is reportedly yet to sign.

Brazil and other developing nations will also be pushing wealthy countries to finally live up to their promise of \$100bn a year in climate funding between 2020 and 2025. If approved, the key question is how to ensure the money is spent on projects that reduce emissions and climate impacts.

The situation is reminiscent of the US under Trump, when the rest of the world largely ignored the official US delegation at Cop summits while giving prominent space and attention to a rival gatherings of state governors, city mayors, NGOs and others supporting more ambitious emissions cuts.

The two very different sides of Brazil will be similarly present in Glasgow. While the official Brazilian pavilion will promote agriculture, a rival Brazil Climate Action hub will highlight the emissions-cutting efforts of Amazonian states, indigenous communities and civil society groups.

HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Nigeria: under construction bldg. collapses</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/dozens-feared-trapped-by-collapse-of-21-storey-building-in-nigerias-capital">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/dozens-feared-trapped-by-collapse-of-21-storey-building-in-nigerias-capital</a>
GIST	<p>At least six people have died after a luxury residential high-rise under construction in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos, collapsed, trapping construction workers under a pile of concrete rubble, the state emergency services chief said.</p> <p>The official, Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, said a search and rescue effort had been launched for survivors late on Monday.</p> <p>Witnesses said up to 100 people were missing and at least three survivors were pulled out on Monday night as rescue workers raced against the clock to dig up victims at the site in the affluent neighbourhood of Ikoyi, where many blocks of flats are under construction.</p> <p>Workers said that as many as 100 people were at work when the building came crashing down.</p> <p>Wisdom John, 28, a bricklayer, said he escaped with just a few cuts because he had been on the ground floor when the building collapsed into a pile of concrete, its floors sandwiching together.</p> <p>"There [were] more than 50 working today and the manager too," he said, sitting in an ambulance getting treated. "We just ran out."</p> <p>Rescue workers used excavators to dig through rubble using generator-powered floodlights. The retrieved body was put in a waiting van while at least three people who were rescued were taken to nearby ambulances.</p> <p>Lagos state police commissioner Hakeem Olusegun Odumosu said it was still too early to determine the cause of the collapse.</p> <p>Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, general manager of the Lagos state emergency management agency, said that many workers were trapped under the rubble.</p> <p>Building collapses are frequent in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, where regulations are poorly enforced and construction materials often substandard.</p> <p>There were heaps of rubble and twisted metal where the building once stood, as several workers looked on. One man wailed, saying his relative was among those trapped.</p> <p>The Lagos state government said the building had 22 floors and authorities were assessing whether there had been any damage to nearby buildings.</p> <p>The collapsed building was part of three towers being built by private developer Fourscore Homes. In a brochure for potential clients, the company promises to offer "a stress-free lifestyle, complete with a hotel flair". The cheapest unit was selling for \$1.2m.</p> <p>Calls to the numbers listed for Fourscore Homes and the main building contractor did not ring through.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Guatemala storms, drought push migrants</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/guatemala-storms-drought-climate-migrants">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/guatemala-storms-drought-climate-migrants</a>
GIST	<p>For the Indigenous Maya Ch'orti' people of La Unión in eastern <a href="#">Guatemala</a>, the daily struggle for water involves catching every drop of rain that drips from sloping metal roofs and walking long distances to fill plastic containers from overused streams.</p>

In this parched region, communities rely on rainfall to feed their families, and in 2019 worked together to build water reservoirs high in the mountains in order to better cope with increasingly frequent droughts and unpredictable rains which caused their maize and bean crops to fail.

But the following year brought the opposite problem. After years without enough rain, two powerful hurricanes, Eta and Iota, [struck within a fortnight of each other](#), causing [flash floods and landslides](#) that left dozens of people trapped in partially collapsed houses.

“We always worried about not enough water, and then this abundance came. What a disaster,” said Yesenia Martínez, the village mayor.

It was around 9pm on a November evening when the concrete walls in Martínez’s own home started to collapse. It was pitch black. Children screamed as cracks opened in the floor and rain poured in from all sides.

“We tried to fill the cracks with stones and plastic sheets, but the earth just gave way. We didn’t lose any lives, thank god – but we lost everything else,” said Martínez, 38, wiping away tears.

It took almost a week for neighbours to rescue Martínez and her family using ropes, sticks and planks of wood to cross the flooded river. The season’s bean crops were ruined, the soil too sodden for replanting. No government help ever arrived.

Almost a year later, Martínez and some of her extended family are living in temporary rickety houses built from corrugated metal sheets and wood, far from the river. But there isn’t room for everyone, and so her four youngest siblings are back living in the derelict house.

“I cried when I came back here. The house could crumble at any moment or a rock could fall on us while we’re asleep. Of course we want to leave, but we’re poor and don’t have anywhere else to go,” said Mirna Martínez, 19.

Barefoot children, skinny dogs and noisy chickens mill about the partially collapsed structure, which is held together by wooden beams and crumbling concrete blocks. Two days before the Guardian’s visit, a landslide had gobbled up another chunk of the neighbor’s coffee crops just 50 meters or so away. It wasn’t even raining when the ground gave way.

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Guatemala is one of five Latin American nations – along with Honduras, Nicaragua, Colombia and Haiti – identified among the 11 countries most at risk from climate chaos due to a combination of geography and poor governance, in [a recent US government report on climate and global insecurity](#).

Eta and Iota marked the first time two major Atlantic hurricanes had been recorded in November, and came after six years of drought in Central America’s [dry corridor](#), an impoverished region that is highly vulnerable to catastrophic extreme weather events such as storms, torrential rain, droughts and heatwaves – all of which are getting [longer and more intense due to global heating](#).

Guatemala has contributed very little to greenhouse gas emissions but its people are suffering acutely from their impact.

Acute malnutrition in children under five has more than doubled since 2019 due to the hurricane related crop losses, volatile commodity prices and the pandemic. Many campesinos were unable to reach coffee plantations, where they can earn \$5 to \$7 a day, because damaged roads and bridges were left unrepaired for months.

Figures show that the largest increase in acute malnutrition cases and child deaths occurred in the regions hardest hit by floods and landslides caused by Eta and Iota. As women cut back on food to provide more for their children, the rate of low birthweight babies also skyrocketed.

With few personal resources, little or no government assistance and NGOs struggling to cope with the [unprecedented rise in food insecurity across Latin America](#), many Guatemalans have left in search of work and safety.

Martínez's sons, Brian, 21 and Esban, 18, borrowed thousands of dollars to pay coyotes or guides to travel overland to the US. They were repeatedly detained by Mexican immigration officials, but eventually made it to Florida where they work in construction, and have started sending some money home every month.

"My sons had to go because we were left with nothing, so many young people have gone. There's no work here, especially if you're Indigenous," said Martínez. One of her sisters also migrated, with her six-year-old daughter.

[Almost 300,000 Guatemalans](#) have been detained at the US southern border since Eta and Iota struck. It's unclear how many succeeded in entering the country, but 2021 is on track to break the remittance record, [with more than \\$11bn sent](#) home by Guatemalans in the first nine months of the year.

"It's evident from the numbers at the US border and remittances that the climate crisis and Covid economic downturn has led to a rise in migration as people try to get away from hunger – you can't deny this. It's already happening and the projections are not positive," said Ricardo Rapallo, the Guatemala representative for the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

At the UN climate talks in Glasgow this week, world leaders will hammer out what help and how much richer countries – those most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions – should contribute to cover the costs of climate impacts in lower-income countries.

But the lack of scientific data on climate migration is hurting vulnerable countries like Guatemala, said Edwin Castellanos, member of the IPCC's scientific group on vulnerability and adaptation and dean of the research institute at Guatemala's Universidad del Valle.

"The future is going to continue like this – very dry periods followed by very wet periods – so we have to adapt to both extremes. But the same socioeconomic conditions that make Central America particularly vulnerable also make us invisible scientifically and therefore least able to access funding needed to adapt."

Next year's IPCC report on vulnerability and adaptation, which Castellanos helped write, will conclude that there is "low confidence" on the link between the climate crisis and migration, due to the dearth of scientific research.

"We know from journalistic reporting that climate change is causing migration, but we lack the hard data because we can't get the funds to get the hard data, which makes accessing international green funds almost impossible. It's a vicious cycle," added Castellanos.

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Maya Ch'orti' territory extends south from La Unión in Zacapa to Camotán in the department of Chiquimula, where rural villages are scattered along dirt roads in the rain shadow of the picturesque Sierra de las Minas. Each house is flanked by clay pots and rows of colorful plastic jars and buckets used by women to collect water for drinking, washing and cooking.

In one tiny canton, campesino Esteban Gutiérrez was sorting through the maize harvest in front of the single-room adobe house where he sleeps with his wife and six children. In 2019, the family was already struggling [when the Guardian visited](#) after consecutive years of drought had left them without enough food.

So far this year, they've had enough maize for Gutiérrez and the children to eat three tortillas three times a day – but not his wife, Miriam Ávalos, 25, who has two for each meal. She's skinny, tired and breastfeeding four-month-old David, but must fetch water from the stream every other day when the communal tap runs dry.

	<p>The three oldest children, aged 11 to 6, are chronically malnourished, and have barely grown since 2019. The two youngest girls, aged 3 and 4, are acutely malnourished after repeated bouts of diarrhea; their hair is falling out in small clumps.</p> <p>Guatemala has one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world with almost half of all <a href="#">children suffering chronic malnourishment</a>, but rates are significantly higher among the country's 24 Indigenous communities.</p> <p>"It's worse now than when you visited us before, the earth is so dry nothing grows," said Ávalos.</p> <p>Two years ago, Gutierrez was desperately trying to mortgage the family's small plot of land to pay a coyote. He's still trying to find away to migrate so he can provide his family with enough food. "We keep trying, we work hard, and hope the water comes in time."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Leaders warn of 'climate doomsday'</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/europe/cop26-glasgow-biden-climate.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/europe/cop26-glasgow-biden-climate.html</a>
GIST	<p>GLASGOW — World leaders opened a pivotal <a href="#">climate summit</a> in Scotland on Monday with apocalyptic warnings about the scarce time left to avert catastrophic global warming, yet offered few new commitments to more aggressively cut greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The gathering, called in the hope that the world could <a href="#">at last agree on meaningful steps</a> to put a rapidly warming planet back on course, is scheduled to last nearly two weeks, but it took only hours for the first bumps to appear.</p> <p>Long-running fault lines in the global debate over who should be the most responsible for cutting emissions emerged in the opening speeches of the assembled heads of state. So did barbs aimed at two major greenhouse gas emitters, China and Russia, <a href="#">whose leaders did not attend</a>. And so did the tensions between the globe's rich and poor, as less-developed countries demanded more aid and swifter action from wealthier ones.</p> <p>Video</p> <p>For his part, President Biden apologized Monday for former President Donald J. Trump's <a href="#">hostility toward the global warming fight</a>, saying it had "put us sort of behind the eight ball."</p> <p>His administration, under pressure at home and abroad over its climate plans, was set to announce a series of new initiatives on Tuesday. The most significant: <a href="#">a plan to heavily regulate methane</a>, a potent greenhouse gas that spews from oil and natural gas operations and can warm the atmosphere 80 times faster than carbon dioxide in the short term.</p> <p>But it is clear that much more will need to be done.</p> <p>Addressing leaders of the more than 120 countries represented at the summit on Monday, the United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, said the effects of a warming planet were being felt "from the ocean depths to the mountaintops."</p> <p>"Enough of burning and drilling and mining our way deeper," Mr. Guterres said. "We are digging our own graves."</p> <p>Oceans are hotter than ever, parts of the Amazon rain forest <a href="#">emit more carbon</a> than they absorb, and over the last decade about four billion people were affected by events related to the changing climate. In the past year alone, deadly <a href="#">floods hit Germany</a> and <a href="#">China</a>, <a href="#">heat waves</a> killed nearly 200 people in the Pacific Northwest and so-called zombie wildfires raged in the Arctic.</p>



Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain compared the race to stop global warming to a spy thriller, warning that “a red digital clock ticks down remorselessly to a detonation that will end human life as we know it.”

“We are in roughly the same position, my fellow global leaders, as James Bond today,” Mr. Johnson said. “The tragedy is this is not a movie, and the doomsday device is real.”

But for all the dire warnings Monday, there was little in the way of specific proposals about how to reduce emissions in the immediate future.

India, which has contributed relatively little to the world’s emissions thus far but looms as a growing source of them, announced new targets that will keep coal at the heart of its power sector for at least a decade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India would also increase its 2030 target for using renewable energy, such as solar power.

Mr. Biden urged countries to cooperate in the fight, emphasizing the potential creation of millions of jobs worldwide related to lower-emission technologies.

“We’re still falling short,” Mr. Biden said. “There is no more time to hang back or sit on the fence or argue amongst ourselves. This is a challenge of our collective lifetime.”

The underlying tension of the summit is the stark disconnect between what the leaders of the biggest global warmers have so far promised and what scientists and civic leaders say must be done.

There is also a disconnect between what has been promised and what has been actually delivered. Leaders of developing countries reminded the summit, for example, that poorer nations have yet to receive the [\\$100 billion in annual climate aid](#) by 2020 that was once pledged.

Several leaders, among them Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, and Gaston Browne, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, pressed forcefully for a discussion of loss and damage. They are, in effect, demanding reparations of a sort for countries that bear little responsibility for the emissions warming the earth — but are already suffering the effects.

Late on Monday, leaders from more than 100 countries, including Brazil and China, did pledge to end [deforestation](#) by 2030, and a suite of measures is intended to channel that goal into action. Governments committed \$12 billion and private companies \$7 billion to protect and restore forests in a variety of ways, including \$1.7 billion for Indigenous peoples.

But experts say the commitments countries have made to reduce emissions are nowhere close to what is necessary. And there remains a question about whether even those limited commitments can be met.

In the United States, Mr. Biden is struggling to deliver on his ambitious climate targets. He spent much of Monday talking up his “[Build Back Better](#)” climate and social policy proposals. But in fact his administration had already been forced to abandon the centerpiece policy of that bill — a measure that would incentivize the power sector to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy — because of objections by Senator Joe Manchin III of coal-reliant West Virginia.

Mr. Biden scaled back his bill and proposed instead spending \$550 billion in tax credits for renewable energy, electric vehicles and other efforts to fight climate change. That would have helped get the United States halfway to Mr. Biden’s goal of cutting emissions up to 52 percent from 2005 by the end of the decade.

Mr. Biden’s domestic struggles have not gone unnoticed by leaders and activists all over the world, especially in light of the U.S. history of abandoning global climate efforts, most notably the Paris accords, which the Obama administration signed, the Trump administration abandoned and the Biden administration rejoined.

“You know, the U.S. lost five years,” Mohamed Nasheed, the former president of the Maldives, said in an interview.

Mr. Biden addressed the issue directly at the summit.

“I guess I shouldn’t apologize,” he said, “but I do apologize for the fact the United States, in the last administration, pulled out of the Paris Accords and put us sort of behind the eight ball.”

Mr. Nasheed, whose low-lying island nation in the Indian Ocean is [existentially threatened by climate change-driven sea level rise](#), said Mr. Biden had a higher bar to meet because of the Trump administration’s actions.

“They’ve come back again, but their ambition must be much higher,” Mr. Nasheed said. “The United States is the richest country on the planet. They of course have emitted more carbon than anyone else. And there’s a historical responsibility, therefore, to make it right.”

Activists from the United States, too, denounced Mr. Biden’s speech.

Varshini Prakash, executive director of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led climate change nonprofit, called the president’s exhortation to other nations to cut emissions “humiliating” given his failure to pass climate legislation at home.

Mr. Biden tried to cast the United States as a leader, and his aides sought to turn international climate ire toward China. Briefing reporters on Air Force One, his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, called the Chinese “significant outliers” and said Beijing had “an obligation to step up to greater ambition as we go forward.”

The absence at the summit of leaders from Russia and China cast doubts on how united the world can be in the struggle.

China, the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitter, proposed a new emissions target that is largely indistinguishable from one it made six years ago. Russia has not made any new pledges to draw down climate pollution this decade.

At the United States summit pavilion, the White House domestic climate adviser, Gina McCarthy, said she believed the world grasped America’s legislative struggles and expressed confidence a bill with strong climate provisions would be passed.

“I do hope they understand,” she said. “The president wants to pass it very soon, and I think he expects it.”

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HEADLINE	11/01 Covid, vaccines link heart problems in kids
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/health/covid-kids-children.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/health/covid-kids-children.html</a>
GIST	<p>Federal regulators are <a href="#">reviewing data</a> on the link between Moderna’s coronavirus vaccine and a rare heart problem in adolescents, the company announced on Sunday. That side effect — myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle — has also worried advisers to federal agencies in deliberations regarding use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in younger children and teenagers.</p> <p>Scientists advising the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will review the latest data on the condition at a meeting on Tuesday before deciding whether to recommend the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for younger children.</p> <p>So how common is myocarditis, really? And should parents be concerned about vaccinating their children?</p>

Absolutely not, said several experts familiar with the recent studies. While the vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna do seem to be associated with an increased risk of myocarditis, the absolute risk remains very small. Most cases are mild and resolve quickly.

“If you look at an isolated risk, you could really get yourself very worked up and scared,” said Dr. Brian Feingold, an expert on heart inflammation in children at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.

But Covid-19 itself, he noted, is much more apt to damage the heart permanently: “Statistically, that’s way more likely.”

Myocarditis generally results from infection with a virus or bacteria, and causes symptoms like rapid or irregular heartbeat, chest pain and shortness of breath. Globally, about 10 to 20 people out of every 100,000 [develop myocarditis](#) each year, but many others have mild symptoms and may never be diagnosed.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, tens of thousands of children have been hospitalized with Covid, [and 657 have died](#), according to data collected by the C.D.C.

Some children who are infected with the coronavirus may go on to develop long Covid, remaining ill for months after the initial infection is gone, or multisystem inflammatory syndrome, which has affected [at least 5,200 children](#) in the United States.

While the risk of myocarditis after vaccination is real, “those are real numbers that are bigger,” Dr. Feingold said.

The incidence of myocarditis after vaccination varies with age, sex and dose — and across studies. But the trend so far suggests that the chances are highest after the second dose of an mRNA vaccine in male patients age 16 to 29.

There are roughly [11 cases of myocarditis](#) for every 100,000 vaccinated male patients in this age group, one study estimated. The odds of myocarditis decrease with age.

Data on adolescents age 12 to 15 years is limited, because the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine only recently became available to them. But so far, heart problems after vaccination seem to be less common in boys of that age than in older men, said Dr. Paul A. Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

This age distribution is similar to that seen among patients with myocarditis caused by viral infections, Dr. Offit said.

An F.D.A. scientific advisory committee, on which he sits, met last week to review the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine’s safety in children 5 through 11 and ultimately voted to recommend that children be given the vaccine.

“Myocarditis is usually a post-pubertal phenomenon,” Dr. Offit said, adding, “That made me feel better about the fact that we won’t be unpleasantly surprised” by a surge in myocarditis in younger children after they are immunized.

That reassurance may not be enough for some parents. Jeff Gustin, a plant geneticist at the Agriculture Department, said he and two of his sons had elevated heart rates after getting the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

His teenage sons recovered quickly, but Dr. Gustin, 42, says he can still feel his heart beating hard, especially when he lies down. Now he is considering a booster of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, rather than of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

And given the family history, he is hesitant to have his youngest son, who is 11, immunized unless the school district requires it.

But some instances of myocarditis after immunization, like those of Dr. Gustin's older sons, may be detected simply because of the intense scrutiny on vaccines, said Dr. James de Lemos, a cardiologist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, who reported [one of the first cases](#) in January.

The myocarditis linked to the vaccines is far less frequent and severe compared with that observed in patients with Covid, and it does not seem to cause lasting harm, Dr. de Lemos said.

The coronavirus can infect cardiac muscle, as well as the lining of blood vessels, putting the heart and other organs at risk of long-term damage. The virus can also weaken the heart enough to require a transplant, and even cause lethal damage.

By contrast, the myocarditis observed after vaccination is mild and transient. "It's unsettling, but rarely life-threatening," Dr. de Lemos said.

Still, some Northern European countries, where the Moderna vaccine was already approved for adolescents, [have stopped giving it to people age 30 and younger](#), at least for the moment. That decision was based on evidence suggesting that the risk of myocarditis is higher with the Moderna vaccine than with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

When researchers at Kaiser Permanente Northern California directly compared the two vaccines, for example, they found that in men 18 to 39 the incidence of myocarditis was elevated after a dose of either vaccine, but more so after Moderna's.

"The rate after Moderna is objectively higher than the rate after Pfizer," said Dr. Nicola P. Klein, director of the Kaiser Permanente Vaccine Study Center. "It's consistent, regardless of which cases we use, or whether it's males only or both sexes."

The risk after both doses of the Moderna vaccine in people age 18 to 39 was as much as [37 times as high](#) as in the general population, and the rate after two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in those age 12 to 39 was as much as 19 times as high.

While that may sound alarming, the absolute numbers were still tiny, Dr. de Lemos noted. "Thirty times a small number is still a small number," he said. "The math still favors vaccination in adolescents and children."

It's unclear why myocarditis seems to affect boys more often than girls, and whether it is specific to the coronavirus vaccines or a side effect of all mRNA vaccines. The focus on myocarditis after vaccination may also help to understand the condition generally, experts said.

"I'll feel a lot better about this when we have an understanding of the pathogenesis, of exactly what is it that's going on," Dr. Offit said. If doctors can identify the cause, he added, "we may be able to treat it to some extent."

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Judge blocks Chicago mandate on cops</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#chicago-police-vaccine-mandate">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#chicago-police-vaccine-mandate</a>
GIST	CHICAGO — A judge in Chicago blocked the city on Monday from enforcing a Dec. 31 vaccine mandate for police officers until the issue can be addressed in arbitration. The ruling was a blow to Mayor Lori Lightfoot and a victory for a police union that has been engaged in an increasingly vitriolic battle with City Hall over the rule.

Judge Raymond W. Mitchell of the Cook County Circuit Court said that as unionized employees, police officers had a right to have their objections to the mandate heard by an arbitrator before the requirement takes effect. If an arbitrator were to rule against the city after the vaccine mandate was being enforced, the judge wrote, there would be little recourse for officers who got vaccinated under duress.

“An award of back pay or reinstatement cannot undo a vaccine,” Judge Mitchell wrote. “Nothing can.”

Across the country, police unions have fought requirements that their members get vaccinated, sometimes leading to fears of mass resignations, as in Los Angeles County, Calif., where the [sheriff has warned](#) of a potential exodus.

The opposition to vaccination mandates has come even though nearly 500 American law enforcement officers have died from work-related Covid-19 since the start of the pandemic, [according](#) to the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#) — far more than have died from any other work-related cause in the last two years.

On Monday, [thousands of New York City employees](#), including police officers, were placed on unpaid leave for failing to get vaccinated by the city’s deadline.

In Chicago, Judge Mitchell’s ruling left in place a requirement for officers to report their vaccination status to the city, which the police union has opposed, and to undergo regular testing if not vaccinated.

“The reporting obligation itself is a minimal intrusion particularly considering that police officers are already obligated to provide medical information to their employer,” the judge wrote.

[About 71 percent](#) of Chicago Police Department employees had reported their vaccination status to the city by last week, by far the lowest rate of any city department. Around 7,300 police employees said they were vaccinated, while about 1,700 said they were not. More than 3,000 others had not provided their status.

John Catanzara, the president of the Fraternal Order of Police in Chicago, which represents rank-and-file officers, had suggested that his members ignore the order and risk discipline or loss of pay.

Ms. Lightfoot’s office said the mayor would address the ruling later on Monday. Mr. Catanzara did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Official death toll 5M; undoubtedly higher</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#5-million-covid-deaths">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#5-million-covid-deaths</a>
GIST	<p>The coronavirus is responsible for more than five million confirmed deaths around the world as of Monday, according to data from the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. Such a loss would wipe out almost the entire population of Melbourne, Australia, or most of the nation of Singapore.</p> <p>Experts say that five million is an undercount. Many countries are unable to accurately record the number of people who have died from Covid-19, like <a href="#">India</a> and <a href="#">African nations</a>; experts have <a href="#">questioned the veracity of data</a> from other countries, like Russia.</p> <p>“All of these estimates still rely on data being available, or someone going and collecting it before antibodies and local memories wane,” said Adam Kucharski, an associate professor at the London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine who mathematically analyzes infectious disease outbreaks. “Globally, there will have been numerous local tragedies going unreported.”</p> <p>The real number of people lost to Covid-19 could be underestimated by “a multiple of two to 10” in some nations, said Denis Nash, an epidemiologist at the City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. Overall, he said, the true global toll could be as high as twice the reported figure (not up to 10 times, as an earlier version of this item incorrectly implied).</p>

The pace of confirmed deaths seems to have slowed slightly since the [world reached four million](#) in early July, despite the rapid spread of the Delta variant since then — a sign that the spread of vaccines could be having an impact, at least in some parts of the world. It took nine months for the [virus to kill one million people](#), three and a half more to [reach two million](#), another [three to claim three million](#) and about two and a half to exceed four million.

The [United States leads all other countries](#), with more than [745,000 deaths](#) confirmed in total. The nations with the highest reported death tolls after the United States are, in order, Brazil, India, Mexico and Russia.

The global rate of reported deaths [climbed](#) over the past two weeks after trending downward for much of September and the first half of October, but at an average of over 7,000 deaths per day remains about 3,000 less than its August peak. The World Health Organization said last week in a [report on pandemic conditions](#) that confirmed deaths had increased in Europe and Southeast Asia, and declined in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Dr. Nash said that the death rate appeared to be slowing “in places around the world where we are doing a good job at counting deaths, which also happen to be places in the world that have the best access to vaccines.”

But, he continued, “I think there are places where there are increases in the death rates, but we’re just not measuring them.”

The 20 countries that have recorded the most reported deaths per capita in recent weeks are mostly in Eastern Europe and the Caribbean, and most of them have vaccinated far less than half of their populations.

Coronavirus cases are rising in [Europe](#), even though three-quarters of the European Union’s adult [population](#) has been fully vaccinated. Those inoculation rates plummet in countries like Bulgaria and Romania, and are even lower in nations that are outside of the bloc, like Armenia.

That vaccination gap persisted even when shots became more widely available. A September [report](#) on perceptions of the pandemic by the European Council on Foreign Relations said that the [disparity](#) seemed to be driven largely by misinformation, distrust and skepticism.

Vaccine hesitancy is also a major problem for [Caribbean](#) nations, and many of them also face unequal distribution of doses and logistical hurdles, the W.H.O. said in October.

W.H.O. officials have pressed wealthy nations to provide more vaccines to poorer ones. They and others have decried vaccine hoarding and most booster shot programs when much of the world has yet to be inoculated. Worldwide, about 76 percent of shots that [have been administered have been so in high- and upper-middle-income countries](#), according to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford. Only 0.6 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries.

Dr. Nash said he was hopeful that expanded access to vaccines and new pharmaceutical treatments, including an [antiviral pill by Merck](#), would eventually rein in the virus.

Dr. Kucharski said that the actual number of dead would not be known for a long time.

“People need to be aware that it may take years to truly understand the toll of Covid-19,” he said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 NYC places 9,000 workers on unpaid leave
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#new-york-vaccine-mandate">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#new-york-vaccine-mandate</a>



## GIST

New York City started to enforce its [Covid vaccine mandate](#) for municipal workers on Monday, and about 9,000 workers who refused to get vaccinated were placed on unpaid leave.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Monday that the vaccination rate for city workers continued to climb, reaching 91 percent, and that the city was running smoothly despite the absences.

“We’re not seeing disruptions to any city services,” he said, before urging workers to get vaccinated and return to work.

City officials said that they were coping with the reduction in workers without a significant slowdown of city services. With measures like shuffling firefighters between companies and extending the workday for sanitation workers, city agencies have been shoring up coverage.

Unvaccinated municipal employees without an approved medical or [religious exemption](#) — or a pending request for one — were placed on unpaid leave.

The number of vaccinated workers at city agencies has surged in the last few days, including at the New York Police Department, where 85 percent of employees were vaccinated on Monday, up from 70 percent when the mandate was announced.

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said on Monday that placing unvaccinated officers on unpaid leave was having “literally no effect on service at this point.”

The city has a total of about 378,000 workers; about 6 percent remain unvaccinated, including those put on unpaid leave and about 12,000 workers who have applied for a medical or religious exemption. Those seeking exemptions are allowed to continue to work, while being tested weekly, until their cases are decided.

At the New York Police Department, officials had recently estimated that as many as 2,500 employees could be placed on leave on Monday as the department begins enforcing the vaccine mandate, according to a high-ranking official, who added that the number was falling because some personnel were getting immunized at the last minute.

The Police Department, which has about 36,000 uniformed officers and 19,000 civilian employees, was confident that it could manage the absences without taking measures such as canceling days off and moving to 12-hour shifts, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

The Sanitation Department has put workers on 12-hour shifts and told many to plan to come in on Sundays.

The vaccine mandate has been especially contentious within the tight-knit Fire Department. More than 2,000 New York City firefighters — out of a total uniformed force of about 11,000 — have taken sick days over the past week in what city officials describe as a large-scale protest against the mandate.

“Irresponsible bogus sick leave by some of our members is creating a danger for New Yorkers and their fellow firefighters,” the fire commissioner, Daniel A. Nigro, said in a statement. He attributed the uptick in sick leave to “anger at the vaccine mandate.”

The personnel shortage has put a strain on Fire Department operations. The department said that all its firehouses remained open, but that maintaining coverage across the city had required shuffling personnel around to reconstitute fire companies.

Andrew Ansbro, president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, the union that represents rank-and-file firefighters, said that there had been no organized sickout. But hundreds of firefighters were feeling the side effects of vaccine doses and were too unwell to work, Mr. Ansbro said in a phone interview

	<p>Sunday morning. “Hundreds of guys are feeling flulike symptoms, because that’s what the shot does to people,” Mr. Ansbro said.</p> <p>The number of employees with approved exemptions — or pending ones — is unclear. But it could be that the number of people placed on unpaid leave on Monday is relatively small compared with the number that go on leave in the days ahead — should those applications for exemptions be mostly rejected.</p> <p>The Police Department, for instance, has received applications for exemptions for some 6,500 officers, according to the official. Over the next two weeks, the department is expected to decide most of those cases, the official said, adding that a large portion of the requests would most likely be denied.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Covid looms in background climate summit</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#covid-looms-in-the-background-of-the-cop26-summit">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/covid-vaccine-boosters#covid-looms-in-the-background-of-the-cop26-summit</a>
GIST	<p>Organizing a global summit with leaders from more than 100 nations and tens of thousands of delegates and activists — while preparing for more than 100,000 protesters to fill the streets outside the conference halls — would be a daunting challenge at any time.</p> <p>This is not any time. With the coronavirus still stalking the planet, officials at this year’s <a href="#">COP26 climate summit</a>, already delayed a year because of the pandemic, are under pressure to address the dangers posed by a warming planet even as the invisible threat of the virus looms. As the summit kicked off, the official <a href="#">global virus death toll passed five million</a>.</p> <p>And just as the changing climate has already had some of the most devastating consequences on the world’s poorest nations, the failure to equitably distribute lifesaving vaccines has left the world divided between the protected and the exposed.</p> <p>Vaccine inequity is also having an impact on the summit, with activists saying that the voices from some of the nations most affected by climate change are not being properly represented.</p> <p>Dorothy Guerrero, of the advocacy group <a href="#">Global Justice Now</a>, told reporters over the weekend that the refusal to give more manufacturers access to produce the vaccines was part of the reason that some delegates from developing nations were unable to attend.</p> <p>“You are already saddled by the fact that your country was affected already for many decades, and you are the least responsible for this climate change,” she said at a news conference in Glasgow. “Yet you could not come here and raise your voice in this important meeting simply because you don’t have access to the vaccine.”</p> <p>Britain <a href="#">offered to help any delegates who need a Covid-19 vaccination</a> obtain one, but attendees are not required to be inoculated. Instead, delegates must show proof of a negative coronavirus test every day to be admitted to the conference center.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Pakistan strikes deal w/militant group</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/asia/pakistan-protests-negotiations-tlp.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=World%20News">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/asia/pakistan-protests-negotiations-tlp.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=World%20News</a>
GIST	<p>ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan averted a political showdown on Monday as officials reopened a key national highway that supporters of a militant Islamist group had occupied for days, following a secret pact between the government and the group.</p> <p>The agreement defused a crisis that had left the country reeling in recent days, the latest in a series of <a href="#">debilitating standoffs</a> with Islamist hard-liners protesting perceived blasphemy. But it also illustrated</p>

the growing influence and power of such groups, including [Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan](#), or T.L.P., which Pakistan banned as a terrorist organization in April, and the weak civilian government's struggle to assert itself amid economic troubles and rising inflation.

"Just because the government has reached an 'agreement' with the T.L.P., it does not mean that such public outcry against blasphemy will not raise its head again," said Saad Rasool, a constitutional lawyer and newspaper columnist.

After a violent, dayslong face-off with members of T.L.P. that left four police officers dead, the Pakistani government announced Sunday that it had entered into an agreement with the group, but did not disclose the terms publicly. Many of the group's supporters remained on the national highway, hoping to pressure the government to follow through on the promises made in the agreement.

The latest standoff began on Oct. 21, when thousands of supporters of T.L.P. began marching toward Islamabad from Lahore, 240 miles away. They demanded the release of the group's leader, Saad Hussain Rizvi, who was arrested in April, and the withdrawal of terrorism charges against hundreds of its members.

The group also demanded the expulsion of the French ambassador over cartoons published in France that depicted the Prophet Muhammad. The government of Prime Minister Imran Khan had agreed to put the question of expulsion to a parliamentary vote last spring but did not follow through.

Violent clashes last week between protesters and the police left four officers dead and 114 other officers wounded, some critically.

After the police failed to stop the marchers — many of them armed — paramilitary troops were called in to quell the violence.

By Friday, the protesters were camped along a key national highway, a portion of the Grand Trunk Road that is roughly 100 miles south of Islamabad, where paramilitary troops cautioned them against advancing farther.

Mr. Khan's government initially adopted a tough stance, with some cabinet ministers saying the protest would not be tolerated. The protesters paid little heed and vowed to press ahead.

The unrest paralyzed several cities in Punjab Province, as the authorities used shipping containers to barricade highways and blocked internet services. Businesses were shut down around the Grand Truck Road, one of the busiest national highways and an artery to several industrial cities. Supply lines were choked, officials said, affecting food relief campaigns to neighboring Afghanistan.

As fears grew of an escalation in violence over the weekend, hectic meetings took place between the government and T.L.P., brokered by senior religious figures.

On Sunday afternoon, Mufti Muneebur Rehman, an influential cleric who acted as a guarantor for T.L.P., and glum-looking cabinet ministers addressed a news conference in Islamabad to disclose the agreement.

"This is not a victory or defeat of any side," Mr. Rehman said, adding that details of the agreement would be made public later.

As part of the pact, the terms of which were widely reported by local media, T.L.P. dropped its demand that Pakistan cut off diplomatic ties with France. In exchange, the government agreed to release members of the group who had been imprisoned and not bring new charges against the group's leaders. It also agreed to lift its ban against the group.

Opposition leaders demanded more clarity.

Among them was Sherry Rehman of the Pakistan Peoples Party, who [wrote](#) on Twitter: “What is the agreement made and why will it be disclosed at ‘an appropriate time?’ Peace with the state on what terms?”

Arif Rafiq, [president of Vizier Consulting](#), a political risk advisory company in New York, said that the protests in Pakistan over blasphemy go back as far as the 1970s and described T.L.P. as a problem for the government that it will not easily solve.

“There’s no overnight solution to the Labaik challenge,” he said. “It’s a niche group with strong grass-roots appeal in Pakistan’s major population centers. And it’s capable of leveraging that support both on the street and at the ballot box.”

Mr. Rasool, the constitutional lawyer, said, “The state of Pakistan, in partnership with moderate clerics, must find a concerted narrative of nonviolence against events of blasphemy.”

Sunni Muslims, especially of the Barelvi sect, who make up a majority of Pakistan’s population, view depictions of the Prophet Muhammad as blasphemous. Perceived insults have prompted angry protests and mob violence.

T.L.P. has channeled this anger within the Pakistani population and has emerged as a powerful force in recent years, with its ability to mount violent protests and rallies. The recent protest was at least its sixth major confrontation with the government.

The potency of the threat the T.L.P. poses is not lost on Pakistan’s civil and military leadership.

In a briefing late Friday at the country’s spy agency headquarters in Islamabad, senior security officials and cabinet ministers told a group of journalists, including The New York Times, that the state could not allow an armed group to challenge its rule. But they appeared fearful of a clash between the protesters and the paratroopers, who fall under the army’s chain of command.

Citing the potential for violence if armed troops confronted protesters, a senior intelligence official said such a crackdown would be imposed only as a last resort.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Fear: climate action costs stir anger
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/business/energy-environment/europe-climate-action-cost.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Business">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/business/energy-environment/europe-climate-action-cost.html?action=click&amp;module=Well&amp;pgtype=Homepage&amp;section=Business</a>
GIST	<p>PARIS — Raucous demonstrations against high energy bills in Spain. Demands for social protection in Greece as coal mines close. Fresh protests in French rural areas and small towns over spiking petrol prices.</p> <p>As <a href="#">world leaders gather</a> for a United Nations conference in Glasgow to tackle the threat of climate change, attention is pivoting to one of the biggest risks involved in decarbonizing the planet: ensuring that the costs of the green transition don’t set off a populist backlash.</p> <p>The worries are especially acute in Europe, where policymakers are expressing growing alarm over the possibility of social unrest and a weakening of public support if the burden of shifting from cheap fossil fuels falls too heavily on poor and middle-income households.</p> <p>“The climate transition remains a risk for all democracies, because it will be very costly — far more costly than expected,” France’s finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, said in a recent interview.</p> <p>“If we are not cautious, we run the risk of having a new Yellow Vest movement” that could crop up “everywhere in Europe,” he said.</p>

Those [fiery protests](#) in France in 2018, named for the millions who donned fluorescent hazard vests as a sign of economic distress, are seared on the minds of many European leaders as they move forward with policies to make the continent a net-zero emitter by 2050. The protests began as an outcry over a fuel-tax increase imposed by Paris elites and exploded into a nationwide [pushback over inequality](#) and financial insecurity.

The urgency to prevent fresh discontent points to the challenges facing nearly all industrialized countries at the conference in Glasgow, known as [COP26](#). The Yellow Vest rallies in 2018 highlighted in stark and sometimes violent fashion the risk of losing political buy-in from citizens who are faced with rising costs to drive cars, heat homes and run appliances.

“People have to think about the end of the month before they can think about the end of the world,” said Guy Ryder, director-general of the International Labor Organization, a United Nations agency.

“If governments neglect to incorporate labor market outcomes, societal costs and notions of fairness into their climate transition policies,” he added, “people will stand back from supporting action on climate change.”

The United States on Thursday moved toward the largest action it has ever taken to address climate change, setting aside \$555 billion in [President Biden’s huge spending bill](#), including financial inducements to encourage the use of wind, solar and nuclear power.

Europe has laid out its own [ambitious blueprint](#) to pivot away from fossil fuels over the next nine years, accompanied by policies aimed at ensuring a so-called “just transition” for vulnerable people as efforts to meet future climate targets directly affect the lives and livelihoods of millions.

But surging energy prices have complicated Europe’s lofty goals, leaving governments scrambling to offset the impact on households as signs popular discontent rise.

Europe has leaned heavily on natural gas to power homes and businesses while it builds out green energy infrastructure. That is leaving the continent vulnerable to fluctuating prices driven by a global recovery from the pandemic, and spurring a [divide between countries](#) that see the crisis as a reason to delay — or speed up — a green energy transition.

In [Spain](#), the government is taking emergency steps to redirect profits from energy companies to consumers after demonstrators in some towns smashed windows at energy company offices and thousands of poor families switched off power because they couldn’t pay.

Prime Minister Mario Draghi of Italy unveiled a 3 billion euro package intended to have a “strong social impact” for poorer households and small businesses. President Emmanuel Macron is subsidizing energy bills in France through the winter and paying 100 euros (about \$116) a month to low-earners after small protests emerged recently in central France, a Yellow Vest heartland.

And in Greece, the government is trying to soothe ire by redirecting money earned from Greece’s carbon emissions trading scheme toward household energy subsidies — while making sure to publicize that the funds come from a tool to combat climate change.

“We will need these types of mechanisms to make sure that poorer people don’t pay the price,” Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in an interview. “Because if that were to happen, it would create a wave against the green transition that would undermine the whole effort.”

Even before the recent energy crunch, some governments were warning that Europeans might not be ready to make the sacrifices needed for a carbon-free future. Beyond the short-term pain of energy bills are the longer-term structural challenges from a fundamental shift in the global economy as it moves away from fossil fuels.

A seismic upheaval in the way goods and services are produced will affect millions of jobs in fields as diverse as energy, agriculture, construction, shipping, finance, engineering, retail and even fashion, altering the social welfare needs of people who will require new skills and training to adapt. Electric cars require fewer parts, and in France alone up to 120,000 jobs across the auto industry are expected to be lost.

While up to 24 million new jobs linked to the green economy could be created by 2030, according to International Labor Organization [estimates](#), “the risk is that skills may be too slow to adjust,” said Patrick Artus, chief economist of the Paris-based Natixis bank.

Nations that signed onto the Paris Agreement in 2015 pledged to target so-called [just transition](#) policies in their climate blueprints, promising fair employment and energy affordability for people and businesses affected by the pivot. Europe has carved out up to €75 billion for its plan, which provides targeted support to help governments ease the social and economic impact in hard-hit regions.

The money is flowing to countries like Greece, which is accelerating the closing of dirty lignite coal mines as it tries to create [a clean energy economy](#). To win citizens’ backing for the shutdowns, affecting over 8,000 mining jobs, the government is proposing retraining and relocation programs, and seeking investments for carbon-neutral farming, solar farms and sustainable tourism to create new employment opportunities.

Still, how to pay for the transition — and who should shoulder the bill for the most vulnerable — will remain one of the biggest challenges for decades to come. Rich nations vowed last week to raise [\\$100 billion a year](#) to help poor countries address climate change — well after the pledge was written into the 2015 Paris accord.

The European Union aims to raise money directly from financial markets by issuing up to €250 billion worth of green bonds, an increasingly popular instrument among investors, to help member states finance these efforts. And negotiators at the COP26 meeting will face a reckoning over the thorny issue of setting a price on carbon for big polluters.

At the end of the day, the social and economic inequalities arising from the transition must be resolved, said Lucas Chancel, a co-director of the Paris-based [World Inequality Lab](#) and an author of a recent [study](#) concluding that a key way to bridge that gap is with higher taxes on the wealthiest and on the biggest gainers from globalization.

“To address the issue of who should pay for the transition, you need to target who is contributing most to the problem,” he said. The study showed that the world’s richest 10 percent emitted nearly half of global emissions in 2019, while the poorest half of the global population was responsible for 12 percent.

“There will be no moving forward with the green transition without large scale redistribution,” Mr. Chancel said. “If we don’t redistribute wealth to accompany low- and middle-income groups, then the transition is not going to work out,” he said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 China push to burn more coal
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/chinas-push-to-burn-more-coal-puts-climate-goals-at-risk.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/world/chinas-push-to-burn-more-coal-puts-climate-goals-at-risk.html</a>
GIST	<p>China, the world’s biggest user of fossil fuels, has taken big steps in recent days to address the global energy shortage this fall and to fight inflation, but the moves come at considerable cost to efforts to halt climate change.</p> <p>The country <a href="#">has begun expanding coal production</a> by more than what Western Europe mines in a year, in a campaign that will help the country end recent electricity shortages. And Beijing separately said on Sunday that it was releasing diesel from its strategic reserves to ensure that fueling stations do not run short.</p>



Diesel demand and diesel prices have surged in China in recent weeks. Many factories have started running diesel generators this fall because they cannot get enough electricity from the grid to meet their fast-rising power needs.

China's extra coal production has helped bring down world coal prices in the past two weeks. Oil prices fell slightly in early trading in Asia on Monday after China's announcement on diesel supplies, although they later rebounded. Rising fossil fuel prices have contributed to an uptick in inflation around the world this year.

But burning coal, already the world's single biggest cause of human-driven climate change, will increase China's emissions of climate change gases and toxic air pollution.

And as world leaders gather in Glasgow to discuss ways to halt climate change, China's extra coal by itself would increase humanity's output of planet-warming carbon dioxide by a full percentage point, said Jan Ivar Korsbakken, a senior researcher at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo.

"The timing is horrible," Mr. Korsbakken said. "Let's hope it's just a temporary measure to mitigate the current energy crisis."

Beijing's leaders are determined to provide ample coal this winter to power China's factories and heat its homes. [Widespread electricity shortages](#), caused partly by coal shortages, nearly paralyzed many industrial cities three weeks ago.

But the potential costs go beyond global-warming emissions. Although China has made [huge strides](#) toward cleaner air over the past decade, extra coal and diesel use could threaten some of that progress. As recently as 2015, air pollution was found to contribute to [1.6 million premature deaths per year](#).

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HEADLINE	11/01 UN climate summit: 'digging own graves'
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#boris-johnson-warns-that-its-one-minute-to-midnight-as-the-climate-summit-opens">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#boris-johnson-warns-that-its-one-minute-to-midnight-as-the-climate-summit-opens</a>
GIST	<p>With humanity already struggling to cope with rising seas, more powerful storms, deadly heat waves and rapidly changing ecosystems needed to sustain life, the global climate summit in Glasgow opened on Monday with a series of desperate pleas for action from nations large and small.</p> <p>"Climate change is already ravaging the world," President Biden said in a speech at the summit, known as COP26, on Monday afternoon. But even while global warming is causing widespread economic damage and upending lives, he said, this was also a moment of opportunity to reshape the way humans live in better harmony with nature.</p> <p>"We are standing at an inflection point in world history," he said, calling climate change an "existential threat to human existence as we know it."</p> <p>That point was echoed by Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados. "If our existence is to mean anything we must act," she said.</p> <p>Underscoring the urgency of the moment, with leaders of more than 120 countries gathered for the summit, the United Nations secretary general, António Guterres, said that the effects of a warming planet were being felt "from the ocean depths to the mountaintops."</p> <p>"Sea level rise has doubled from 30 years ago," he said. Oceans are hotter than ever, parts of the Amazon rain forest emit more carbon than they absorb, and in the last decade about four billion people were affected by events related to the changing climate.</p>

“Enough of burning and drilling and mining our way deeper,” Mr. Guterres said. “We are digging our own graves.”

The conference’s aim is to prevent the average global temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with levels before the Industrial Revolution. That is the threshold beyond which scientists say the dangers of global warming — such as deadly heat waves, water shortages, crop failures and ecosystem collapse — grow immensely.

Mr. Guterres called on countries to return to the summit every year to nudge one another “until keeping to 1.5 degrees is assured, until subsidies to fossil fuels end, until there is a price on carbon and until coal is phased out.”

Many countries will press against such specific measures, and the absence of leaders from Russia and China from the meeting cast doubts on how united the world can be in the struggle.

China, the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitter, proposed a new emissions target that is largely indistinguishable from one it made six years ago. The United States, the largest historic emitter, has an ambitious emissions goal but [has not been able to pass legislation](#) to achieve it. And Australia, India and Russia have not made any new pledges to draw down climate pollution this decade.

Meanwhile, only a few wealthy countries have allocated money to help poor and vulnerable nations cope with the effects of climate disasters that those countries have done little to cause.

Those two factors make the likelihood of success at the conference, known as COP26, uncertain.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain kicked off the summit with an urgent call for action, likening climate change to a bomb primed to explode, even as he acknowledged the challenges ahead.

“The tragedy is that this is not a movie and the doomsday device is real,” he said. “Humanity has long since run down the clock on climate change. It is one minute to midnight on that doomsday clock, and we need to act now.”

Ms. Mottley poked holes in the climate promises of some countries that are based on technologies that don’t yet exist.

“This is at best reckless,” she said, and “at worst dangerous.”

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 US slams absent China as summit opens</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#us-officials-slam-an-absent-china-as-the-summit-opens">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#us-officials-slam-an-absent-china-as-the-summit-opens</a>
GIST	<p>The Biden administration ramped up its criticism of China on Monday as the U.S. president traveled to Glasgow for the climate summit, calling on the Chinese to increase their emissions-cutting ambitions.</p> <p>The critique sought to portray China and its leader, Xi Jinping — who is notably absent from COP26 — as large-economy laggards in the race to limit rising temperatures. It was also aimed at shifting criticism away from America’s domestic struggles in pushing to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Briefing reporters on Air Force One, President Biden’s national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, called the Chinese “significant outliers” among countries that have made commitments in an attempt to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Mr. Sullivan said that China had “an obligation to step up to greater ambition as we go forward.”</p>

	<p>Asked about how the tense U.S.-China relationship was affecting climate talks globally, Mr. Sullivan heaped blame on Beijing, calling the country's climate steps "deeply asymmetrical."</p> <p>"The United States, despite whatever difficulties we have with China, is stepping up," Mr. Sullivan said. "We're going to do 50 to 52 percent reduction by 2030. We're coming forward with all of our commitments — we're filling our end of the bargain at COP."</p> <p>China is "a big country with a lot of resources and a lot of capabilities," he added, "and they are perfectly well capable of living up to their responsibilities."</p> <p>Diplomats from some of the world's most vulnerable countries have avoided openly criticizing China. When asked about the new target that Beijing announced last week, which is largely indistinguishable from its 2015 target of peaking emission before 2030, many diplomats said only that all Group of 20 nations must be more ambitious.</p> <p>"The world needs more," Tina Stege, a climate ambassador for the Marshall Islands, said in a statement. "China can do more, and it should, as should all members of the G20."</p> <p>Alf Wills, a former chief negotiator for South Africa, said that developing nations were loath to publicly criticize China for several reasons. For one, Chinese diplomats can be instrumental in pushing wealthy nations to deliver funding for poor countries. For another, China now far outpaces the United States in delivering aid to the developing world.</p> <p>"To a large extent China represents, from an economic perspective, pretty much an economic superpower," Mr. Wills said, "particularly among developing countries."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Small island nations turn to tribunal court</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#small-island-nations-try-to-take-major-polluters-to-court">https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/01/world/cop26-climate-change-summit#small-island-nations-try-to-take-major-polluters-to-court</a>
GIST	<p>Frustrated over being ignored in the climate change fight, small island nations most affected by rising sea levels and hurricanes are turning to an international court in the hope of winning compensation to cover losses and better protect themselves.</p> <p>On Sunday, as the COP26 summit began, the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda and the Pacific nation of Tuvalu set in motion a procedure before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea to claim damages from major polluting countries.</p> <p>"Litigation is the only way we will be taken seriously while the leaders of big countries are dillydallying," said Gaston Browne, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who is the chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States. "We want to force them to respond in a court of law."</p> <p>While small island states "did not create the problems of climate change," Mr. Browne added, "we are on the frontline of this fight because we are on the frontline of bearing the catastrophic consequences."</p> <p>The current climate accords do not include provisions for dispute settlement. But the tribunal based in Hamburg, Germany, has a mandate to settle disputes linked to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which obliges nations to protect the marine environment. A large majority of nations have ratified the convention, although the United States is among those that have not.</p> <p>The tribunal has ruled on seabed mining, marine boundaries and fisheries, but it has never heard a case involving greenhouse gases and their effects on the oceans.</p> <p>As a first step, the islands will ask the tribunal judges whether it is possible to claim damages from countries emitting greenhouse gases that warm and change the oceans. The islands hope that the judges</p>

	<p>will rule on whether excessive greenhouse gases are pollutants covered under the convention, a decision that could be groundbreaking because it could pave the way for lawsuits before the tribunal or other international courts.</p> <p>Payam Akhavan, a lawyer representing both Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu, said such a ruling “could be a game-changer. The principle is that the polluter pays.”</p> <p>The countries have joined forces because two signatories are required to start the process, but they expect other islands to join the legal effort.</p> <p>Island states worldwide face varying challenges from the warming climate. Low-lying atolls, mainly in the Pacific, have seen rising seas erode territory and damage crops and drinking water. Volcanic islands in the Caribbean have suffered infrastructure damage because of a growing number of hurricanes.</p> <p>Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, speaking before the global climate gathering on Monday, said that wealthy nations’ failure to act amounted to a “death sentence” for island nations like hers and much of the developing world.</p> <p>“Are we so blinded and hardened that we can no longer appreciate the cries of humanity?” she asked.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Pandemic adds to labor unrest</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/business/economy/strikes-labor-pandemic.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/business/economy/strikes-labor-pandemic.html</a>
GIST	<p>When 420 workers at the Heaven Hill spirits bottling plant near Louisville went on strike in September, they were frustrated that the company’s proposed contract could reduce their overtime pay. Many had earned extra income working seven days a week during the pandemic.</p> <p>“We were essential,” said Leslie Glazar, recording secretary of the local union representing spirits workers. “They kept preaching, ‘You get us through that, we’ll make it worth your time.’ But we went from heroes to zero.”</p> <p>The recent strike at Heaven Hill, which ended in late October after the company softened its overtime proposal, appears to reflect the current moment: Buoyed by shortages in labor and supplies that leave employers more vulnerable, and frustrated by what they see as unfair treatment during the pandemic, workers are standing up for a better deal.</p> <p>Data <a href="#">collected</a> by the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University shows the number of workers on strike increased in October, to more than 25,000, versus an average of around 10,000 in the previous three months.</p> <p>“Labor market leverage and the fact that workers have been through incredibly difficult working conditions over the past year and a half with the pandemic are combining to explain a lot of this labor activism now,” said Johnnie Kallas, a Ph.D. student and the project director of Cornell’s Labor Action Tracker.</p> <p>Large companies continue to have considerable power, and it is not clear that the recent job actions point to a new era of widespread strikes. Many workers who were nearing a strike appear to have pulled back from the brink, including <a href="#">60,000 film and television production workers</a>, whose strike threat was at least temporarily defused when their union reached tentative agreements with production studios. And even a doubling or tripling of strike activity would fall well below levels common in the 1960s and 70s.</p> <p>But the fitful economic recovery from the pandemic has eroded management’s advantages. Employers are having unusual difficulty in filling jobs — this summer, the Labor Department <a href="#">recorded</a> the highest number of job openings since it began keeping such data in 2000. And for some companies, supply-chain disruptions have taken a toll on the bottom line.</p>

In a [recent survey](#) by IPC, a trade association representing the electronics industry, nine out of 10 manufacturers complained that the time it takes to make their goods had increased. Nearly one-third reported delays of eight weeks or more.

Many workers also contend that their employers have failed to share enormous pandemic-era profits, even as they sometimes risked their lives to make those earnings possible. Striking workers at John Deere, whose union announced a tentative agreement with the company over the weekend, have pointed out that Deere is on pace to set a record profit of nearly \$6 billion this fiscal year even as it sought to end traditional pensions for new hires. The United Automobile Workers said a vote on the contract was expected this week.

Workers say that when companies do offer raises, the increases are often limited and don't make up for the weakening of benefits that they have endured for years.

That helps explain why the upturn in labor action dates back to 2018, when tens of thousands of teachers walked off the job in states like West Virginia and Arizona, though the lockdowns and layoffs of the pandemic initially suppressed strike activity. With workers in both Democratic and Republican states feeling wronged, the strike impulse tends to transcend partisan divides.

One increasingly common complaint is the so-called two-tier compensation structure, in which workers hired before a certain date may earn a higher wage or a traditional pension, while more recent hires have a lower maximum wage or receive most of their retirement benefits through a variable plan like a 401(k).

Frustration with the two-tier system helped propel a six-week strike at General Motors in 2019, and has loomed over several strikes this year, including Kellogg and Deere. Deere workers hired after 1997 have much smaller traditional pensions.

In some cases, workers have even grown skeptical of their union leadership, worrying that negotiators have become too remote from the concerns of the rank and file.

This is particularly true at the United Automobile Workers, which has been wracked by a corruption scandal in which more than 15 people have been convicted, including two recent presidents. Some Deere workers cited discontent with their union's leadership in explaining their vote against the initial contract the union had negotiated.

It is also a feeling that some Hollywood crew members have expressed about negotiations handled by their union, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. "They're not bad people, they're working in good faith," said Victor P. Bouzi, a sound mixer and IATSE member based in Southern California. "But they're not seeing what's happening to people and how we're getting squeezed down here."

Yet for every force pushing workers toward a strike, there are others that push in the other direction.

Union leaders can be reluctant to strike after having negotiated a deal for workers. IATSE leaders are endorsing the tentative agreements they reached with the studios in October, and even those who oppose them believe it will be a long shot for the membership to vote them down.

Matthew Loeb, the IATSE president, said that 36 locals were closely involved in developing the union's bargaining objectives and that "our members demonstrated incredible union solidarity that stunned the employers and helped us to achieve our stated goals."

For their part, companies often pre-empt a labor action by improving compensation, something that appears to be happening as employers raise wages, though that is also to attract new workers. (It's less clear if the wage increases are keeping up with inflation outside leisure and hospitality industries.)

Manufacturing workers contemplating strikes may have jobs that are relatively sought-after in their cities and towns, making workers less keen to risk their jobs in the event of a strike, and potentially easier to fill than a quick glance at the number of local openings would suggest.

And the mere act of striking can exert an enormous psychological and financial toll in an economy where workers have a limited safety net. When unionized workers receive strike pay, it's typically a fraction of their usual pay, and they must often picket outside their workplace to receive it.

Companies can use the legal system to place restrictions on them — as with Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, where about 1,000 workers represented by the United Mine Workers of America have been on strike for seven months. The company recently won a court order prohibiting picketing within 300 yards of entrances.

As difficult as a strike can be when workers are unionized, it is far more difficult when they're not. Nonunionized workers often find strikes harder to organize and harder to endure because of the lack of pay. They are typically more vulnerable to potentially unlawful responses by employers, which unions have the legal muscle to resist.

It is perhaps no surprise that as the rate of union membership has fallen, so has the number of strikes. Until the early 1980s, the country typically saw more than 200 a year involving 1,000 or more workers, versus 25 in 2019, the highest in almost two decades. Far fewer than 20 began this year.

"The volume is quite minimal," said Ruth Milkman, a sociologist of labor at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. "That's partly because only 6 percent of the private sector is organized."

The recent strike at Heaven Hill in Bardstown, Ky., illustrates the complicated calculus facing workers. An analysis by the employment site ZipRecruiter showed that when the strike vote was taken in September, job postings in the Louisville area had increased by almost twice the percentage they had nationwide during the pandemic.

After the company threatened to bring in replacement workers, the employees were dismissive. "No one can find workers now — where do they think they'll find 400?" Ms. Glazar, the local union official, said shortly before the strike ended. "That's the only thing that keeps us smiling out there."

There were also indications that Heaven Hill was running low on inventory as the strike wore on, crimping the company's ability to age and bottle alcohol that it produced in Louisville. "We could see the truck movement had slowed down from week one to week six — there were not near as many trucks in and out," Ms. Glazar said.

Josh Hafer, a company spokesman, said, "There may have been some small-scale products impacted, but not to any large degree."

Still, the workers were under enormous stress. Their health benefits ended when their contract expired, and some workers found their insurance was no longer valid while trying to squeeze in a final doctor's appointment.

And while jobs in the area appeared plentiful, many workers preferred to stay in the whiskey-making business. "I like what I do, I enjoy everything about bourbon," said Austin Hinshaw, a worker who voted to strike at the Heaven Hill plant. "I have worked at a factory before, and it's not my thing." In late October, Mr. Hinshaw accepted a job at a distillery in town where he had been applying for months.

A few days earlier, Heaven Hill management had worked out a new agreement with the union. The proposed contract included a commitment to largely maintain the existing overtime pay rules for current workers, though it left open the possibility that future workers would be scheduled on weekends at regular pay, which grated on union members. The company also offered a slightly larger pay increase than it had offered just before the workers' contract expired in September.



	<p>In a statement, Heaven Hill pointed to the generous health benefits and increased wages and vacation time in the new contract.</p> <p>The company's proposal divided the members, many of whom wanted to keep fighting, but more than one-third voted in favor of the contract, the minimum needed to approve it and end the strike.</p> <p>"There are a lot of mixed emotions," Ms. Glazar said. "Some of them are just disappointed. They thought that it would have been better."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 American Airlines cancels more flights</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/american-airlines-cancels-hundreds-of-more-flights-11635784958?mod=hp_lead_pos2">https://www.wsj.com/articles/american-airlines-cancels-hundreds-of-more-flights-11635784958?mod=hp_lead_pos2</a>
GIST	<p><a href="#">American Airlines Group Inc.</a> <a href="#">AAL +2.16%</a> canceled hundreds of additional flights on Monday, <a href="#">extending its weekend troubles</a> as it struggles to meet growing travel demand with a staff reduced in size because of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The airline said it canceled 340 flights as of 11 a.m. ET on Monday, amounting to about 6% of its total flights. The airline scrubbed more than 1,900 flights over the weekend.</p> <p>American said staffing shortages and bad weather—such as high winds in Dallas, where the carrier is based—drove the cancellations.</p> <p>"Our team members are continuing to take great care of our customers and we anticipate getting through this brief irregular ops period quickly with the start of a new month," Chief Operating Officer David Seymour said in a letter to employees Saturday.</p> <p>Representatives from the company declined to offer additional comment on Monday.</p> <p>American has said it plans to accelerate hiring as the holiday season nears. Nearly 1,800 flight attendants were expected to return from leave on Monday, with the rest returning Dec. 1, Mr. Seymour told employees. The airline expects to hire 4,000 new employees in the fourth quarter.</p> <p>The latest cancellations from American follow a slew of problems for rival carriers in recent months. In August, <a href="#">Spirit Airlines</a> Inc. said <a href="#">bad weather and staff shortages prompted it to cancel 2,800 flights</a> over a 10-day period. Those cancellations cost Spirit about \$50 million. And last month, <a href="#">Southwest Airlines</a> Co. canceled <a href="#">about 2,000 flights</a>, which resulted in a \$75 million loss. The airline at the time blamed bad weather in Florida and thin staffing that made it difficult to recover.</p> <p>Airlines have had to slash flights throughout the pandemic and, to conserve cash, have urged thousands of workers to retire early or take leaves of absence. As travel has rebounded, they have had to rebuild their operations, which has proved to be more difficult than expected.</p> <p>Airlines have been racing to bring back workers and hire pilots, flight attendants and ground staff. But, similar to the challenges across the labor market, airlines have also struggled to return to full force.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Anti-vax protesters unnerving warning</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/11/01/anti-vaccine-staten-island-protest-burn-threat/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/11/01/anti-vaccine-staten-island-protest-burn-threat/</a>
GIST	<p>Hundreds of Staten Island residents holding anti-vaccine signs and waving American flags gathered on Sunday across the street from where New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) was scheduled to speak at a campaign event for local Democrats. The crowd was angry about New York City's <a href="#">vaccine mandate for municipal workers</a>, which takes full effect on Monday.</p>

But one attendee had another worry — that the city, [like the state of California](#), will force children to get the [coronavirus](#) vaccine. So he offered an unnerving warning.

“If they’re going to push this on the kids ... I can guarantee you one thing: Town halls and schools will be f---ing burned to the ground,” the man said in a [video](#) posted by freelance journalist Oliya Scootercaster. The crowd clapped, cheered, banged on drums and raised their American flags.

The protest on Sunday comes as conflicts over mask and vaccine mandates [grow more violent](#) across the United States. [School board meetings](#) have devolved into vitriol and chaos, while [teachers](#), [medical workers](#) and [flight attendants](#) have been assaulted and harassed for enforcing state and federal guidelines.

The atmosphere in New York has been no exception. On Friday, [six firefighters demonstrated](#) outside the Brooklyn office of state Sen. Zellnor Myrie (D). The group told Myrie’s staffers that they will have “blood on their hands” if the mandate goes into effect. Over the past week, [more than 2,000 New York City firefighters](#) took sick days as an act of protest.

The city is bracing for shortages among municipal workers because of the vaccine mandate. But Mayor Bill de Blasio [tweeted](#) on Saturday that 91 percent of city workers are vaccinated. “2,300 more workers got the shot today alone,” he said.

There have been other anti-vaccine protests in Staten Island, a borough known for its conservative majority. In September, Scootercaster posted a [video](#) of dozens of [maskless residents storming into the Staten Island Mall](#) food court chanting “U-S-A!” and “My body, my choice” to protest the city’s indoor vaccine requirement.

More than 300 people attended Sunday’s rally, according to [SILive](#). Many held signs that disparaged President Biden, and some attendees wore [yellow Stars of David](#), an antisemitic symbol [co-opted by anti-vaccine advocates](#) who equate getting the shot to tragedies inflicted on Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Scootercaster’s video from Sunday’s rally, which had over 126,000 views on Twitter as of early Monday, shows a man wearing a blue shirt, a black vest, sunglasses and a red, white and blue hat that said “I pee in pools” surrounded by the crowd of demonstrators.

Holding a microphone, the man, who has not been publicly identified, said the disagreements over vaccine requirements could turn violent.

“In 1776 ... nobody went to court. Anyone grabbed a gun, and they f---ing shot at each other!” he yelled. “Yeah!” people in the crowd shouted back.

“And again, I do not condone violence and hope we don’t get there. I hope we don’t get there,” he continued. “But just understand that there are plenty of people that are ready to go there.”

Several community leaders spoke at the rally, [SILive](#) reported, including Republican New York City mayoral candidate Curtis Sliwa, who promised to “roll back” mandates if elected on Tuesday.

“I will rehire every one of these civil servants,” he said, referring to those put on unpaid leave for not obeying the vaccine requirement. He added: “They can’t even go and get another job — how inhumane, how oppressive.”

When asked about the protesters, Hochul told reporters that they have the right to express their opinions.

“This is America: They’re allowed to voice their concerns,” she said in a [video from Scootercaster](#). “But I do hope that everyone will get vaccinated. That is the one way we can declare this pandemic over once and for all. ... But I respect their right to have peaceful protests.”

HEADLINE	<b>11/02 New Zealand faces suspected outbreak</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-seals-off-northern-region-over-suspected-spread-covid-19-2021-11-02/">https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-zealand-seals-off-northern-region-over-suspected-spread-covid-19-2021-11-02/</a>
GIST	<p>WELLINGTON, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Authorities planned to seal off the northern tip of New Zealand with police cordons on Tuesday, as they enforce a lockdown in the region over fears of an undetected community transmission of COVID-19 there.</p> <p>Part of the Northland region, about 270 km (168 miles) from the biggest city of Auckland, is to begin a level 3 lockdown from midnight, said Chris Hipkins, the minister coordinating the response to coronavirus.</p> <p>The move follows two cases in the region that lacked a link to any known cases.</p> <p>"It's unclear how they could have possibly picked up the virus," Hipkins told a news conference. "There could be undetected community transmission in Northland right now."</p> <p>The cabinet will review on Monday the decision to seal off the area, where vaccination rates are among the lowest in the country, with just 64% of North Island's eligible population fully vaccinated.</p> <p>Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who was visiting Northland on Tuesday, had to abruptly halt a media conference after being continuously interrupted and heckled by at least two people, who appeared to be anti-vaxxers.</p> <p>One could be heard singing during the event, while another asked Ardern to identify a person who died in August after receiving the Pfizer vaccine, and accused her of lying to the public.</p> <p>New Zealand won global praise last year for its response that stamped out the coronavirus.</p> <p>But it has been tougher to quash the current outbreak of the Delta variant around Auckland, forcing authorities to decide to live with the virus rather than an earlier strategy of elimination.</p> <p>Virus curbs in Auckland were extended by a week on Monday.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 China urges families: stock up for winter</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-urges-families-keep-stores-daily-needs-ahead-winter-2021-11-02/">https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-urges-families-keep-stores-daily-needs-ahead-winter-2021-11-02/</a>
GIST	<p>SHANGHAI/BEIJING, Nov 2 (Reuters) - The Chinese government has told families to keep daily necessities in stock in case of emergencies, after COVID-19 outbreaks and unusually heavy rains that caused a surge in vegetable prices raised concerns about supply shortages.</p> <p>The directive by the commerce ministry stirred some concern on domestic social media that it may have been triggered by heightened tensions with Taiwan.</p> <p>In response, the Economic Daily, a Communist Party-backed newspaper, told netizens not to have "too much of an overactive imagination" and that the directive's purpose was to make sure citizens were not caught off guard if there was a lockdown in their area.</p> <p>The ministry's statement late on Monday urged local authorities to do a good job in ensuring supply and stable prices, and to give early warnings of any supply problems.</p> <p>The central government typically makes extra effort to boost the supply of fresh vegetables and pork in the run-up to China's most important holiday, the Lunar New Year, which will fall in early February next year.</p>

But this year those efforts have become more urgent after extreme weather in early October [destroyed crops in Shandong](#) - the country's biggest vegetable growing region - and as outbreaks of COVID-19 cases stretching from the northwest to the northeast of the country threaten to disrupt food supplies.

Last week, the prices of cucumbers, spinach and broccoli had more than doubled from early October. Spinach was more expensive than some cuts of pork at 16.67 yuan (\$2.60) per kilogramme, according to a vegetable price index in Shouguang, a key trading hub in Shandong.

Although prices have eased in recent days, economists expect a significant year-on-year increase in consumer price inflation for October, the first in five months.

The pandemic has brought an increased focus on food security for Beijing. The government is currently drafting a food security law and has also outlined [new efforts to curb food waste](#) after making the problem a priority last year.

The commerce ministry added that local authorities should purchase vegetables that can be stored well in advance and also look to strengthen emergency delivery networks to guarantee smooth and efficient distribution channels.

It added that information related to the prices and supply and demand of commodities should be released in a timely manner to stabilise the public's expectations.

China also plans to release vegetable reserves "at an appropriate time" to counter rising prices, according to a state TV report late on Monday.

It is not clear which vegetables China holds in reserves and how big those reserves are.

The state planning body has called for the timely replanting of vegetables, urging local governments to support fast-growing produce, according to the report.

Currently China has about 100 million mu (6.7 million hectares) planted with vegetables, the agriculture ministry has said.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 China, Russia: lift sanctions from NKorea</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-russia-revive-push-lift-un-sanctions-north-korea-2021-11-01/">https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-russia-revive-push-lift-un-sanctions-north-korea-2021-11-01/</a>
GIST	<p>UNITED NATIONS, Nov 1 (Reuters) - China and Russia are pushing the U.N. Security Council to ease sanctions on North Korea by reviving a 2019 attempt to remove a ban on Pyongyang's exports of statues, seafood and textiles and expanding it to include lifting a refined petroleum imports cap.</p> <p>In a reworked draft resolution, seen by Reuters on Monday, China and Russia want the 15-member council to remove those sanctions "with the intent of enhancing the livelihood of the civilian population" in the isolated Asian state.</p> <p>North Korea has been subject to U.N. sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.</p> <p>The draft resolution also includes other measures first proposed by Russia and China nearly two years ago, including lifting a ban on North Koreans working abroad and exempting inter-Korean rail and road cooperation projects from sanctions.</p> <p>Several U.N. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the refreshed draft resolution would find little support. In 2019 Russia and China held two informal rounds of talks on the draft resolution, but never formally tabled it for a vote.</p>

Diplomats said on Monday that China and Russia have not yet scheduled any talks on their new draft resolution. A resolution needs nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the United States, France, Britain, Russia or China to pass.

The U.N. missions of Russia and China did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the new text, which diplomats said was circulated to council members on Friday.

"It has been always China's will that we should also address the humanitarian dimension caused by the sanctions imposed by the Security Council," China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun told reporters last month, adding again that the 2019 draft resolution "remains on the table."

#### 'DIFFICULT SITUATION'

A spokesperson for the U.S. mission to the United Nations declined to comment on private council discussions, but added that all U.N. members should be focused on addressing those who are violating the sanctions already in place.

"The Security Council has repeatedly affirmed that it is prepared to modify, suspend, or lift the measures as may be needed in light of the DPRK's compliance," the spokesperson said. "Yet the DPRK has taken no steps to comply with the Security Council's demands regarding its prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programs."

North Korea is formally known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.N. Security Council does already allow for humanitarian exemptions. A U.N. rights investigator last month called for sanctions to be eased as North Korea's most vulnerable risk starvation after it slipped deeper into isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sanctions on industries that Russia and China have proposed lifting previously earned North Korea hundreds of millions of dollars. They were put in place in 2016 and 2017 to try to cut off funding for Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea continued developing its nuclear and ballistic missile programs during the first half of 2021 in violation of U.N. sanctions and despite the country's worsening economic situation, U.N. sanctions monitors reported in August.

The country has long suffered from food insecurity, with observers saying that mismanagement of the economy is exacerbated by sanctions and now the COVID-19 pandemic, which prompted unprecedented border lockdowns there.

The new draft resolution would have the council acknowledge "the difficult situation of economy and livelihood of the DPRK in recent years, underscoring the necessity to respect the legitimate security concerns of the DPRK, and ensure the welfare, inherent dignity, and rights of people in the DPRK."

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HEADLINE	11/02 Census analysis finds small undercount
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-census-2020-think-tanks-congress-5a325059f0a7c7a0d2483b0130551ba9">https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-census-2020-think-tanks-congress-5a325059f0a7c7a0d2483b0130551ba9</a>
GIST	<p>The 2020 census missed an estimated 1.6 million people, but given hurdles posed by the pandemic and natural disasters, the undercount was smaller than expected, according to an analysis by a think tank that did computer simulations of the nation's head count.</p> <p>The analysis, done by the Urban Institute and released Tuesday, found that people of color, renters, noncitizens, children and people living in Texas — the state that saw the nation's largest growth — were most likely to be missed, though by smaller margins than some had projected for a count conducted in the</p>

midst of a global pandemic. Still, those shortfalls could affect the drawing of political districts and distribution of federal spending.

The analysis estimates there was a 0.5% undercount of the nation's population during the 2020 census. If that modeled estimate holds true, it would be greater than the 0.01% undercount in the 2010 census but in the same range as the 0.49% undercount in the 2000 census.

The [2020 head count of the nation's 331 million residents](#) last year faced unprecedented challenges from the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), [wildfires in the West](#), [hurricanes on the Gulf Coast](#) and [attempts at politicization](#) by the Trump administration. The census is used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets, provides the data used for drawing political districts and helps determine the allocation of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending each year.

"The fact that the undercount wasn't larger is surprising and certainly a good news story," said Diana Elliott, principal research associate at the Urban Institute. "This undercount suggests the 2020 census may not be as close in accuracy as 2010, but it may not be as dire as some had feared."

The official undercount or overcount of the census won't be known until next year when the Census Bureau releases a report card on its accuracy. The bureau's post-enumeration survey measures the accuracy of the census by independently surveying a sample of the population and estimating how many people and housing units were missed or counted erroneously.

The Urban Institute created computer simulations that modeled the count by demographic characteristics and geography. Despite the smaller-than-expected national undercount, it showed wide ranges based on race, ethnic background, age and among U.S. states and metro areas.

In 2020, Black and Hispanic people had net undercounts of more than 2.45% and 2.17%, respectively, according to the Urban Institute estimates, while they were respectively 2.07% and 1.54% in 2010.

There was an overcount of white residents by 0.39%, according to the Urban Institute, and undercounts of Asians, Native Americans and Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders by 0.6%, 0.36% and 1.5%, respectively.

By comparison, 2010 had an overcount of white people by 0.84%. In 2010, there were undercounts of Asians by 0.08% and Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders by 1.34%. Native Americans on reservations were undercounted by 4.88% in 2010, but those off reservations were overcounted by 1.95%. Children under age 5 were undercounted by 4.86%, households with noncitizens by 3.36% and renters by 2.13% in 2020, according to the Urban Institute.

One of the nation's leading civil rights organizations, the National Urban League — not to be confused with the Urban Institute — said recently that an undercount of Black residents could rob African American communities of billions of dollars in federal funding and three congressional seats. National Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial blamed the Trump administration, which [attempted but failed to add a citizenship question](#) to the 2020 census form and [tried to end the head count early](#).

The National Urban League has called for congressional hearings to look into the extent of political interference in the 2020 census.

"This isn't simply an unfortunate accident," Morial said. "It's the result of a deliberate campaign of sabotage intended to steer political influence and public resources away from communities of color."

The Urban Institute's analysis found variations in the accuracy by geography. Among the 20 largest metro areas, the Twin Cities had the nation's highest overcount, more than 1%, and Miami had the largest undercount at about 1.7%.

Mississippi and Texas were undercounted by 1.3% and 1.28%, respectively, in the simulated count. Minnesota, Iowa, New Hampshire and Wisconsin also registered overcounts in the simulation, an



	<p>unsurprising conclusion since they had among the highest self-response rates in the nation during the actual count.</p> <p>About a fifth of the U.S. residents not counted in the Urban Institute’s simulations, or more than 377,000 people, lived in Texas, and that could have real-life consequences. According to the Urban Institute analysis, Texas stands to miss out on \$247 million in 2021 federal Medicaid reimbursements for being undercounted.</p> <p>President Joe Biden’s choice to head the Census Bureau, Robert Santos, was chief methodologist at the Urban Institute before his nomination last spring. He played an advisory role on the project, Elliott said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Elections showcase security, new laws</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/elections-voting-presidential-elections-misinformation-election-2020-4001ffebd1c5e2aa597d16581c749fd">https://apnews.com/article/elections-voting-presidential-elections-misinformation-election-2020-4001ffebd1c5e2aa597d16581c749fd</a>
GIST	<p>ATLANTA (AP) — Elections taking place across the U.S. on Tuesday will be the first to test new voting restrictions in some Republican-controlled states and give elections officials a chance to counter a year’s worth of misinformation about voting security.</p> <p>Officials said demonstrating secure, consistent and fair practices could help reassure those who still have doubts about last year’s presidential election as they begin preparations for next year’s midterms.</p> <p>“It is a great dress rehearsal for 2022,” said Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon.</p> <p>Much of the attention will be on Virginia and New Jersey, where voters are casting ballots for governor and other statewide races. For the rest of the country, voters were making selections on a variety of local races, ranging from mayor and city council to school board and bond measures. Voters in Maine, New York, Texas and a few other few states were considering ballot initiatives on a wide array of topics.</p> <p>For some, the voting experience will be different from last year, when officials implemented pandemic-related changes to make it easier for voters to avoid crowded polling places. Some states have made those changes permanent, while others have rolled some of them back.</p> <p>In Virginia, lawmakers last year expanded absentee voting permanently by no longer requiring an excuse. But a requirement for a witness signature on absentee ballots that was waived last year is back, and officials have been working to contact voters who have been turning in ballots without them. Those voters will have until Friday to fix the issue or their ballots will not be counted.</p> <p>In a few states, voters were encountering tighter voting rules because of laws enacted in states controlled politically by Republicans. Among them are Florida and Georgia, where voters face new ID requirements for using mail ballots.</p> <p>Republicans have said their changes were needed to improve security and public confidence following the 2020 presidential election. They acted as former President Donald Trump continued his <a href="#">false claims that the election was stolen</a> despite no evidence of widespread fraud.</p> <p>These claims were rejected by judges and election officials of both parties who certified the results and <a href="#">Trump’s own attorney general</a>, who said federal law enforcement had not seen fraud “on a scale that could have effected a different outcome in the election.”</p> <p>Voting rights groups said various hotlines would be available to assist voters who have questions or encounter problems at the polls or with their mail ballots. Damon Hewitt, whose group the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law leads the effort, said Tuesday presented an important test.</p>

	<p>“It’s a test of voters to run the gauntlet, to figure out these new rules and restrictions,” Hewitt said. “And frankly, it’s also a test of our democracy: How strong can it be, and are we willing to tolerate these efforts to make it harder for people to vote.”</p> <p>Tuesday also will be an opportunity for election officials to educate voters about how the system works and counter the misinformation that still surrounds the 2020 presidential vote. False claims have led to harassment and even death threats against state and local election officials.</p> <p>“We have to do more to combat it, get in front of it and frankly educate the public about the voting process,” said Amber McReynolds, former Denver elections clerk and CEO of the National Vote at Home Institute. “Because part of the reason that there is disinformation and it has been able to flow as it has, is that the vast majority of Americans don’t understand how the election process works.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Data: Seattle most anxious major metro</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/stressed-out-in-seattle-were-the-most-anxious-major-metro-in-the-u-s-new-census-data-shows/">https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/data/stressed-out-in-seattle-were-the-most-anxious-major-metro-in-the-u-s-new-census-data-shows/</a>
GIST	<p>Here in Seattle, we take a lot of pride in our status as the coffee capital of the nation. But starting tomorrow, you might want to consider switching to decaf.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because Seattle is also the most jittery major metro in the U.S., according to survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.</p> <p>In a survey conducted Sept. 29 to Oct. 11, 54.5% of the adult population of King, Pierce and Snohomish counties — that’s roughly 1.8 million people — said they felt “nervous, anxious or on edge” for at least several days during the past two weeks. That’s the highest percentage among the 15 largest U.S. metro areas.</p> <p>This data comes from the ongoing Household Pulse Survey, an experimental product of the U.S. Census Bureau. Unlike other census products, which have a long lag time, the Household Pulse Survey provides near real-time data.</p> <p>The Household Pulse Survey includes data for all 50 states plus the 15 largest metro areas — Seattle just makes the cut at No. 15.</p> <p>These statistics are intended to help inform officials and policymakers about the impacts of the pandemic on communities across the country, and to provide data to aid in a post-pandemic recovery. And it goes without saying that the pandemic has been a particularly stressful time for many of us. That's why there is a question about anxiety in the survey.</p> <p>I was a little skeptical about the survey results at first. For one thing, as with all survey data, there is a certain amount of error built into it. On top of that, any survey of people's mental health is bound to have some degree of variance. Feelings of anxiety often change from day to day or week to week.</p> <p>Fortunately, the Household Pulse Survey is a biweekly product, so I was able to see if Seattle ranked consistently high for anxiety over time. I checked each of the surveys going back to the start of the current phase of questions, which began on July 21 — that's a total of six surveys.</p> <p>In each of the six, Seattle ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 among the 15 metros for the percentage of adults experiencing symptoms of anxiety for at least several days. And Seattle was the only metro area where more than 50% of the respondents were experiencing anxiety in all six of the surveys.</p> <p>In other words, the latest result doesn't appear to be a fluke. We really are more stressed out.</p>

It would be great if there was pre-pandemic data that we could use as a baseline level of anxiety with which to compare these findings. But the Census Bureau only began this project in response to the pandemic, so we can't know if Seattle has always been more stressed out than other large metros, or if this is something new.

One thing that can cause anxiety is economic hardship, and many of us have been hit hard by the pandemic. Even so, there are metro areas with higher rates of poverty and unemployment than Seattle — Detroit and Miami, for example — which consistently have lower levels of anxiety than we do.

We also have more protections against evictions than many other places, so that's one less thing for renters to worry about.

Perhaps it's the spread of coronavirus itself that's causing people in Seattle anxiety. This is purely anecdotal, but I see a tremendous number of Seattleites masked up even when they're walking outside, and at extremely low risk of contracting the virus. You don't see this same degree of precaution in many other parts of the country, or even in Washington state.

The survey data doesn't give us any clues as to why people are anxious. But it does tell us some more about who is feeling it more profoundly.

There is a strong generational component to anxiety. Seattle Gen Z and millennials are significantly more stressed-out than boomers. Gen X anxiety falls somewhere in between.

A higher percentage of white people are stressed out in Seattle than people of color.

There are less significant differences in degrees of anxiety by marital status or level of education.

Also interesting: Seattle doesn't stand out for the percentage of adults who say they struggle with symptoms of anxiety nearly every day. In the most recent survey, that accounted for 13%, which is in line with many other metro areas.

It's the percentage of folks who say they have anxiety several days or about half of the days in the two week period — about 41% of our adult population — where Seattle stands out from the pack.

The most recent Household Pulse Survey had about 57,000 respondents nationally, including 1,415 in the Seattle metro area.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Canceled flights: messy holiday travel?
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/american-airlines-e2-80-99-canceled-flights-portend-messy-holiday-travel/ar-AAQaft7?ocid=uxbndlbing">https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/american-airlines-e2-80-99-canceled-flights-portend-messy-holiday-travel/ar-AAQaft7?ocid=uxbndlbing</a>
GIST	<p>(Bloomberg) -- The razor-thin staffing that contributed to thousands of canceled U.S. passenger flights in October doesn't bode well for smooth holiday travel.</p> <p>American Airlines Group Inc. scrapped about 1,900 flights since Saturday, including 302 by early Monday, as cancellations continued to ripple from the disruption of flights by high winds that started Friday at its main hub near Dallas. Just three weeks ago, Southwest Airlines Co. sparked customer ire when it canceled <a href="#">3,100 flights</a> over four days because of storms and interrupted air traffic control. Southwest said it needed to hire more workers to ward off more disruptions.</p> <p>Airlines have been caught off guard by the rapid rebound of travel demand and the need to staff up enough to serve them after tens of thousands took early retirement or extended leaves during the pandemic. It's likely to happen to American Airlines again as traffic picks up for the holidays, said Dennis Tajer, an American captain and spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association union.</p>

“We are very concerned about the upcoming holiday travel season,” Tajer said in a telephone interview. “They are setting up all the dominoes. All it’s going to take is the finger tip of Mother Nature to send those tumbling.”

For American, those dominoes were toppled last week, when three out of the five runways at Dallas/Fort Worth International airport were closed because of high winds. The airline said it canceled 1,060 flights Sunday -- nearly 21% of its schedule, and more than 10% for the period of Oct. 29 through Monday morning.

Airline schedules are complex and interdependent, which means delays can ripple through the system and grow in magnitude as they do. Because federal law restricts how many hours a pilot may work, it means that substitute flight crews will be needed if flights run too late. If backup crews are in short supply -- particularly at the end of a month -- airlines have no choice but to cancel flights.

The disruption at American continued into Monday morning as the carrier worked to get its schedule back in order, with the company saying it had 302 cancellations, or 5.4% of its schedule. The carrier’s shares rose less than 1% to \$19.32 at 10:13 a.m. in New York.

### **Demand’s Rising**

Last week saw the highest average daily number of passengers outside of brief holiday-weekend peaks since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, according to Transportation Security Administration data. The average was about 1.8 million daily for the seven days through Saturday, or about 84% of the equivalent week in 2019.

The airline networks are more “brittle” because of staff cuts after the pandemic and lockdowns reduced passenger counts, said Samuel Engel, senior vice president of the aviation group at consultant ICF. He also cited a different mix of traveler -- more tourists and fewer business passengers -- that may not match up with staffing at airports. Miami is getting more flights now than Cleveland, for example, he said. Plus, he said, the weather is also getting more extreme, which increases cancellations.

“The underlying forces are going to be with us for a while,” Engel said. “The airline management will get more and more adept at mitigating the impacts.”

### **Labor Shortages**

American is hiring pilots, flight attendants and support staff to prepare for more passengers, Chief Operating Officer David Seymour wrote in an Oct. 30 letter to employees. The airline will have almost 1,800 flight attendants returning from leave beginning Monday and another 600 newly hired will be on the job by the end of December. The company is also bringing on 4,000 support workers during the final three months of the year, he wrote.

“We continue to staff up across our entire operation and we will see more of our team returning in the coming months,” Seymour said in the letter.

The plan to hire workers is easier said than done, union spokesman Tajer said. American wants to add more than 2,500 pilots but there’s a lack of instructors and flight simulators to do that quickly. Support staff is difficult to find because of a general labor shortage and rising wages for competing jobs, he said.

“We don’t know how in the world they make 2 plus 2 equal 10,” Tajer said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Federal contractors’ broad enforce flexibility
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnbc.com/2021/11/01/federal-contractors-will-have-broad-flexibility-to-enforce-covid-vaccine-rules.html">https://www.cnbc.com/2021/11/01/federal-contractors-will-have-broad-flexibility-to-enforce-covid-vaccine-rules.html</a>

Federal contractors will have broad leeway to enforce President [Joe Biden](#)'s Covid-19 vaccine mandate, [according to new guidance the White House released Monday](#), laying out details on implementation of the rules.

Under the new guidance, [federal contractors](#) from [IBM](#) and Boeing to food service providers will have flexibility to determine how they enforce the vaccination requirements for workers who refuse to be vaccinated.

“A covered contractor should determine the appropriate means of enforcement with respect to its employee at a covered contractor workplace who refuses to be vaccinated and has not been provided, or does not have a pending request for, an accommodation,” said the guidelines, which affect millions of workers.

The federal contractor guidelines are stricter than the forthcoming vaccine mandate for businesses with 100 or more employees, which allow for regular testing broadly as an alternative to a vaccine. The Labor Department is still finalizing those rules. Businesses have [asked for that mandate to be delayed until after the holiday season](#) over concerns about possible supply chain disruptions.

The White House released the federal contractor guidance Monday after contractors sought more details on how to implement the rules. Biden issued an executive order on Sept. 9 requiring federal contractors to ensure their employees are vaccinated against [Covid-19](#) and follow masking and social distancing policies. The administration set a Dec. 8 deadline for contractors to implement those requirements.

Senior administration officials made clear that Dec. 8 is not a hard deadline for contractors to have all of their employees fully vaccinated. Instead, contractors must demonstrate they are making a good faith effort to ensure employees are getting vaccinated and have plans in place to ensure masking and social distancing policies are followed in the workplace.

Federal contractors won't have to show proof of vaccination rates at the deadline, a senior administration official said. But noncompliance could result in the loss of a federal contract.

Federal agencies could bar a contractor employee who refuses to be vaccinated from entering a federal workplace, according to the guidelines.

“In most circumstances individuals who are not fully vaccinated need to follow applicable masking, physical distancing, and testing protocols,” the guidelines said.

The federal government will defer to contractors to determine when an employee has a sincerely held religious belief or medical condition that requires accommodation, according to senior administration officials. Federal contractors are not required to make a final determination on accommodation requests when an employee begins work.

“The covered contractor may still be reviewing requests for accommodation as of the time that covered contractor employees begin work on a covered contract or at a covered workplace,” the guidelines said. However, federal contractors must require employees with pending accommodation requests to abide by policies on masking and social distancing while their requests are under review, according to the guidelines.

Federal contractors including some large airlines such as [Southwest](#) and [American](#), and aerospace giant [Boeing](#), have said employees must be vaccinated by the Dec. 8 deadline or apply for an exemption. Some labor groups have opposed the mandate, including pilots' unions at American and Southwest. The latter sought to bar the implementation of the mandate, a request a federal judge in Texas [denied last week](#).

American and Southwest executives have softened their tone over the mandate, urging employees to apply for religious or medical exemptions if they don't plan to get the vaccine, and said they [don't expect to terminate employees over it](#). Southwest last month dropped a plan to put workers with pending exemption

	<p>requests on unpaid leave. Airline executives said they don't foresee the mandate impacting flights over the holidays.</p> <p>Eleven Republican-led states sued the administration on Friday, arguing the vaccine mandate is unconstitutional. The administration has made clear that the requirements supersede any state laws that bar compliance with Covid-19 mitigation policies.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Marines refuse vaccine will be booted</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/11/01/the-corps-covid-19-vaccination-deadline-is-soon-marines-who-refuse-will-be-booted/">https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-marine-corps/2021/11/01/the-corps-covid-19-vaccination-deadline-is-soon-marines-who-refuse-will-be-booted/</a>
GIST	<p>The Corps will kick out every Marine who refuses the COVID-19 vaccine and fails to receive an approved exemption by the Nov. 28 deadline, a new administrative message said.</p> <p>Barring an approved administrative, medical or religious accommodation, or a pending appeal, Marines who fail to meet the deadline will be processed for administrative separation, the MARADMIN said. General court-martial convening authorities will “retain authority to take any additional adverse administrative or disciplinary action” deemed appropriate.</p> <p>A Marine is considered to have “refused the vaccine” when they do not have approved administrative, medical or religious accommodation, or a pending appeal, and they “received and willfully disobeyed a lawful order from a superior commissioned officer to be vaccinated against COVID-19,” the MARADMIN said.</p> <p>The Marine Corps had not approved any religious exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine as of Thursday, said Capt. Andrew Wood, a Marine Corps spokesman.</p> <p>If a Marine does eventually opt to get vaccinated but acts too late to meet the deadline, they also are considered to have refused the vaccine.</p> <p>As soon as a Marine meets the definition for refusal, the administrative separation process will start and they may receive as low a discharge as “general under honorable” conditions, the MARADMIN states.</p> <p>Marines who refuse to be vaccinated will have their promotions put on hold, will not deploy and will not be allowed to reenlist, the Corps said.</p> <p>Any Marines who refuse will be barred from holding command assignments and any Marines who refuse while in a command assignment will be relieved for cause, the MARADMIN said.</p> <p>Marines refusing the vaccine who had received bonuses or special duty pay may end up owing the Marine Corps money.</p> <p>“Marines separated for vaccination refusal will not be eligible for involuntary separation pay and will be subject to recoupment of any unearned special or incentive pays and advance educational assistance,” the MARADMIN reads. “Marines who do not complete their service obligation for Transfer of Education Benefits will lose their eligibility to retain transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and may be subject to recoupment if the Veterans Affairs has already processed a payment for transferred benefits.”</p> <p>A total of 70 service members across the Department of Defense have died of COVID-19, according to the Department of Defense, a number that has seen a large increase in recent months.</p> <p>At least 66 of those service members were completely unvaccinated when they died, while one had received the first dose of a two dose version of the vaccine, Military Times previously reported.</p> <p>As of Oct 21, 93 percent of active duty Marines had been partially vaccinated, Wood said.</p>



	<p>Those who have yet to comply with the order are quickly running out of options to get vaccinated.</p> <p>Marines taking the Pfizer vaccine would have been required to have had their first dose by Oct. 24 and will need their second dose by Nov. 14.</p> <p>Marines opting for the Moderna vaccine would have been required to have their first dose by Oct. 17 and will need their second dose no later than Nov. 14, according to previous Marine Corps administrative messages.</p> <p>The only option remaining for fully unvaccinated Marines without exemptions is the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine, which Marines would need to take by Nov. 14 if they want their Marine Corps career to continue.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 NYC mayor decries firefighters' sickout</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/us/nyc-fdny-firefighters-vaccine-mandate-sick-leave/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/us/nyc-fdny-firefighters-vaccine-mandate-sick-leave/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN)Any firefighters feigning illness to protest New York City's Covid-19 vaccine mandate are "doing an immense disservice" to the city, Mayor Bill de Blasio said Monday night.</p> <p>The comment came after hundreds of firefighters called in sick Monday as the vaccine mandate went into effect, bringing the total number of sickouts in the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) to 2,300, Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro said at a news conference.</p> <p>Normally, 800-1,000 fire department employees call in sick on any given day, FDNY spokesperson Jim Long told CNN.</p> <p>Members of the fire and police departments and other city workers had until 5 p.m. Friday to show proof they have received at least one vaccine dose or be placed on unpaid leave. The same mandate was already in effect for city health care and education workers.</p> <p>"The folks who are out sick and really aren't sick -- the folks who are faking it -- are doing an immense disservice to the people of this city and to their fellow members of service," de Blasio said during an interview on Spectrum NY1, adding, "We will make sure there are consequences for that."</p> <p>The FDNY-Firefighters Association, which opposes the mandate, suggested firefighters could be taking sick leave due to reactions to receiving the vaccine over the weekend.</p> <p>But the mayor said the city was looking into whether the firefighters' union had coordinated any "sick-out."</p> <p>"If the union coordinates -- in any way -- a job action, that is a violation of the Taylor Law," de Blasio said, referencing a New York State Law that prohibits public employees from striking.</p> <p>The mayor said the city was willing to "go to court immediately" over any alleged Taylor Law violation.</p> <p>"There's a certain point where responsible, decent people who say they believe in American values need to recognize there's been due process, democracy has happened," de Blasio said of the mandates. "The people spoke."</p> <p>Despite the large number of firefighters calling in sick, de Blasio said New Yorkers remained safe.</p> <p>"There's a lot of members of the fire department -- there's a lot of redundancy," he said, adding that scheduled training and maintenance was canceled Monday in order to maximize the number of on-duty firefighters. "Response time has been very strong."</p>

Nigro, the FDNY commissioner, said at a news conference earlier Monday that 18 fire units were out of service out of 350, though no firehouses had closed.

"If you're sick, you're sick, it's a dangerous job. I get it. If you're not sick, I want to see you back at work," Nigro said.

"Once the members come to their senses and stop using medical leave improperly, they can help out not only the citizens of the city but their brothers and sisters who are staffing these units," Nigro added.

#### **Union is 'not anti-vaccine,' leader says**

According to city figures Monday morning, 77% of FDNY firefighters had received a vaccine, up from 58% when the vaccine mandate was announced on October 20. Emergency Management Services employees within the FDNY have an 88% vaccination rate, up from 61%.

FDNY-Firefighters Association President Andrew Ansbro said Monday morning that he didn't know how many firefighters would not be permitted to work due to still being unvaccinated, stating the FDNY does not share those numbers with them.

"I don't have access to numbers of who's gone sick, but I do know that hundreds of firefighters have received their Covid vaccination in the last several days. No one should be expected to work less than 100%. Everyone knows the vaccine causes mild flu-like symptoms regularly, so these members are not coming to work feeling those symptoms," Ansbro said.

He said the vaccine mandate is "causing an exodus" of firefighters from the department and the remaining firefighters are "going to have to work to the breaking point" to make up for the staffing shortages. Ansbro maintained the union is "not anti-vaccine, we are anti-mandate."

FDNY-Fire Officers Association President Jim McCarthy said Monday morning "all we are asking for is extra time" regarding the city mandate, so their members can have more time to make decisions on whether to get the vaccine, to file any religious or medical exemptions, or potentially decide to retire.

McCarthy said the department's previous policy of testing unvaccinated FDNY members for Covid-19 was working.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Sub hit uncharted underwater mountain</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/01/politics/navy-submarine-underwater-mountain/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/01/politics/navy-submarine-underwater-mountain/index.html</a>
GIST	<p><b>Washington (CNN)</b>A US <a href="#">nuclear-powered submarine</a> that struck an underwater object in early October had hit an uncharted underwater mountain, an investigation found, forcing it to head from the South China Sea to Guam for repairs.</p> <p>The USS Connecticut had been operating in the contested waterway when it struck the object on October 2, but it was unclear at the time what it had hit.</p> <p>"The investigation determined USS CONNECTICUT grounded on an uncharted seamount while operating in international waters in the Indo-Pacific region," a 7th Fleet spokesperson told CNN in a statement. US 7th Fleet operates in the Western Pacific and Indian oceans.</p> <p>Though the <a href="#">Seawolf-class submarine</a> suffered some injuries to crew members and some damage, the Navy said the nuclear propulsion plant was not damaged in the accident. None of the injuries were life-threatening.</p>

The command investigation for the USS Connecticut has been submitted to Vice Adm. Karl Thomas, the commander of 7th Fleet, for his review, according to the statement. Thomas will decide whether "follow-on actions, including accountability, are appropriate."

[USNI News was the first to report](#) the findings of the investigation.

The collision came at a particularly sensitive time in US-China relations, as the Chinese military was sending waves of aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone. On the day of the crash, China flew 39 aircraft into the Air Defense Identification Zone. Two days later, China flew a record 56 aircraft into the zone in a 24-hour period.

Though the number of incursions ebbed for a short period, they have since begun again. On Sunday, Taiwan's Ministry of Defense said eight People's Liberation Army aircraft entered the Air Defense Identification Zone, with another six flying in on Monday.

Meanwhile, the tensions between Washington and Beijing have increased. Last week, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called for Taiwan to have "meaningful participation" at the United Nations, calling Taiwan's participation "not a political issue, but a pragmatic one."

The statement drew an angry rebuke from Beijing, which views unification with the independently ruled island as one of its primary objectives and adamantly opposes Taipei's participation in international forums.

"Should the US side choose to continue playing the ill-advised 'Taiwan card,' it would inevitably pose seismic risks to China-US relations, seriously undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and gravely harm the interests of the US itself," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said a day after Blinken's statement.

Zhao also said that Taipei's current policy is "the greatest realistic threat to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

On Thursday, Taiwan's defense minister openly acknowledged that US military personnel are training Taiwanese troops.

"The US military is only assisting in training (our troops), but they are not based here," Chiu Kuo-cheng said, according to Taiwan's official Central News Agency.

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HEADLINE	11/01 CDC 'very high' risk travel destinations list
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/cdc-very-high-risk-travel-destinations-november-1/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/cdc-very-high-risk-travel-destinations-november-1/index.html</a>
GIST	<p>(CNN) — The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention added Russia to its <a href="#">list of "very high" risk travel destinations</a> this week.</p> <p>On Monday afternoon, the world's largest country by area (covering more than 17 million square kilometers or 6.6 million square miles), moved up to Level 4, the agency's highest risk category. It was previously listed as Level 3, or "high" risk for Covid-19.</p> <p>Belgium was also among a handful of destinations added to the Level 4 category.</p> <p>Destinations that fall into the "Covid-19 Very High" Level 4 category have had more than 500 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 28 days, according to CDC criteria.</p> <p>People should avoid traveling to locations designated with a "Level 4" notice, the CDC recommends. Anyone who must travel should be fully vaccinated first, the agency advises.</p>

A total of four destinations moved to Level 4 on November 1:

- **Belgium**
- **Burkina Faso**
- **Russia**
- **Slovakia**

#### **Popular favorites remaining on Level 4**

Many popular international vacation spots remained lodged at this highest level of alert, evidence of Covid-19's continuing grip. There were nearly 80 countries at Level 4 as of November 1. The current list of Level 4 destinations includes:

- **Austria**
- **Barbados**
- **Botswana**
- **Croatia**
- **Greece**
- **Ireland**
- **Maldives**
- **Switzerland**
- **Thailand**
- **Turkey**
- **United Kingdom**

In the case of the UK, it's been lodged at Level 4 since July 19. Greece has been there since August 2. Thailand has been there since August 9.

#### **New entries on Level 3**

The Level 3 category -- which applies to destinations that have had between 100 and 500 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 28 days -- had four updates this week:

- **Fiji**
- **Jamaica**
- **Laos**
- **Poland**

Being placed in Level 3 was a sign of progress in Fiji and Jamaica, which both moved down from Level 4. For Poland, the move to Level 3 was a sign of worsening conditions. The eastern European nation had been at Level 2 ("moderate" risk). Laos was previously listed in the CDC's "unknown" category due to a lack of information.

You can view the CDC's risk levels for global destinations on its [travel recommendations page](#).

There are other factors for travelers to consider beyond the Covid-19 incidence rates that figure prominently in the CDC's travel notices, according to CNN Medical Analyst Dr. Leana Wen.

"The transmission rates are one guidepost. Another is what precautions are required and followed in the place that you're going and then the third is what are you planning to do once you're there," said Wen, an emergency physician and professor of health policy and management at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.

"Are you planning to visit a lot of attractions and go to indoor bars? That's very different from you're going somewhere where you're planning to lie on the beach all day and not interact with anyone else," said Wen, who is also author of a new book, "Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health."

Most importantly, travelers should be vaccinated, she said.

#### **Some options in Level 2**

There were no additions to the Level 2 category this week. Destinations carrying the "Level 2: Covid-19 Moderate" designation have seen 50 to 99 Covid-19 cases per 100,000 residents in the past 28 days.

	<p>Popular destinations in this less risky category on November 1 included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colombia</b></li> <li>• <b>Peru</b></li> <li>• <b>India</b></li> </ul> <p>Keep in mind the CDC list updates weekly, and the situation in any country can change for better or worse from week to week.</p> <p><b>Level 1 and no ratings</b></p> <p>In the category of "Level 1: Covid-19 Low" destinations, fewer than 50 new cases per 100,000 residents have been logged over the past 28 days. <a href="#">New Zealand</a>, which has just started to <a href="#">ease its travel restrictions</a>, is in this category.</p> <p>Finally, as mentioned above, there are destinations for which the CDC has an "unknown" risk because of a lack of information. As of November 1, that included Monaco, the Azores and Tanzania.</p> <p>In its <a href="#">broader travel guidance</a>, the CDC has recommended avoiding all international travel until you are fully vaccinated.</p> <p>"Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to get and spread Covid-19. However, international travel poses additional risks, and even fully vaccinated travelers might be at increased risk for getting and possibly spreading some Covid-19 variants," the agency said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Recall: Dole, Kroger garden salad</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/product-recall-dole-salad-listeria/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/product-recall-dole-salad-listeria/</a>
GIST	<p>Dole Fresh Vegetables is recalling bags of garden salad sold in 10 states after a sample tested positive for listeria monocytogenes, an organism that can cause serious and potentially deadly infections.</p> <p>No illnesses have been reported in connection to the recalled garden salad sold in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia, the company said Friday in a <a href="#">recall</a> posted by the Food and Drug Administration.</p> <p>The recall includes 12-ounce bags of Kroger Classic Garden Salad sold at Kroger stores in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, the retailer <a href="#">said</a> on its website.</p> <p>The recall comes after a sample yielded a positive result for the bacteria in a random test by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>The product is already beyond its October 25, 2021, "best-if-used-by" date and should no longer be on store shelves, according to the notice. Consumers should check their refrigerators for the recalled salads, and throw out those with the specific lot and UPC codes listed below.</p> <p>The recall includes 24-ounce Dole Garden Salad with lot codes N28205A and N28205B on the upper right corner of the bag and the UPC code 0-71430-01136-2 on the lower left corner of the back of the bag.</p> <p>Also, 24-ounce Marketside Classic Salad with lot codes N28205A and N28205B and the UPC code 6-81131-32895-1; 12-ounce Kroger Brand Garden Salad with lot codes N28211A and N28211B and the UPC code 0-11110-91036-3; and 12-ounce Salad Classics Garden Salad with lot codes N28211A and N28211B and the UPC code 6-88267-18443-7.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Colorado hospitals face Covid resurgence</b>
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SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/uchealth-covid-colorado-hospitals-resurgence-patients-turned-away/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/uchealth-covid-colorado-hospitals-resurgence-patients-turned-away/</a>
GIST	<p>Colorado hospitals grappling with an influx of <a href="#">COVID-19</a> cases no longer have to accept new patients, following an executive order by Governor Jared Polis.</p> <p>The Democrat's <a href="#">order</a> on Sunday came as hospital capacity across the state dropped to less than 10%. The edict applies to hospitals that have hit, or are nearing, their cap on the number of patients they are equipped to handle. It authorizes the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to "order hospitals and freestanding emergency departments to transfer or cease the admission of (and redirect) patients to respond to the current COVID-19 Disaster Emergency in Colorado."</p> <p>Polis <a href="#">said</a> his actions will help "address the staffing shortages in hospitals," which he termed "severe."</p> <p>The governor's order gives local health care workers more latitude to decide who gets treated first in an emergency. The order also coincides with a state mandate requiring health care workers be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with 92% of Colorado's hospital workers now immunized.</p> <p>Despite having terminated 119 workers for refusing to get vaccinated, UCHHealth, one of the state's biggest health systems, said the mandate helped improve staffing among its workforce of 26,500.</p> <p>"With broad vaccination rates, fewer employees are testing positive for COVID-19 and needing to be out of work while they recover," a UCHHealth spokesperson <a href="#">told</a> Colorado Public Radio.</p> <p>Dr. Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection control and prevention for UCHHealth, told the radio station that she found it "unfortunate that there were individuals that had to be let go." But she added, "I also feel strongly they don't belong in health care."</p> <p>Polis last week said Colorado on Monday would start transferring <a href="#">monoclonal antibody treatment</a> out of medical centers to a fleet of mobile clinics.</p> <p>COVID-19 hospitalizations in Colorado are at their highest since last year, before <a href="#">vaccines</a> were readily available. Masks are optional, and restaurants are running at full capacity in most parts of the state, with Polis reluctant to revive statewide restrictions. The state's positivity rate is running <a href="#">above 8%</a>.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Faster-spreading Delta variant? AY.4.2</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-delta-variant-ay-4-2-states/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-delta-variant-ay-4-2-states/</a>
GIST	<p>A potentially faster-spreading "sub-lineage" of the <a href="#">coronavirus</a> Delta variant named AY.4.2 has been spotted by labs in at least 8 states, and health authorities in the United Kingdom say they are investigating a growing share of cases from this strain of the virus.</p> <p>Labs in California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island and Washington state, plus the District of Columbia, have <a href="#">so far spotted</a> at least one case of AY.4.2.</p> <p>While it may spread somewhat faster, health authorities have not found evidence of more severe illness caused by the variant, and they say <a href="#">current vaccines</a> remain effective against it.</p> <p>The sub-lineage has remained a small fraction of circulating cases in the U.S. for several weeks, but American health officials say they are already ramping up efforts to study the new Delta variant descendant.</p> <p>"We have teams that are constantly reviewing the genetic sequence data and looking for blips, an increase in a certain proportion or just something that's completely new," says Dr. Summer Galloway, executive secretary of the U.S. government's SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group.</p>



Galloway, who also serves as policy lead on the CDC's laboratory and testing task force, said U.S. labs began preparing last month to prioritize tests to assess whether AY.4.2 can evade antibodies from vaccinated Americans, or from currently authorized monoclonal antibody treatments for the virus.

That process can take up to four weeks, Galloway said, across several laboratories who will run tests with harmless "pseudoviruses" designed to impersonate the variant's characteristic mutations.

Scientists have already turned up worrying combinations of mutations in other sub-lineages of Delta called AY.1 and AY.2, which like AY.4.2 have also sometimes been interchangeably called "[Delta plus](#)" variants.

Last month, the Biden administration temporarily halted distribution of a [monoclonal antibody treatment](#) in Hawaii after estimated cases of AY.1 climbed up to 7.7% in the state. The Food and Drug Administration [said](#) lab experiments with AY.1 suggested it was "unlikely" the [drug](#) would be effective against the variant.

The state has [since resumed](#) use of the antibody treatment, after AY.1 dropped below 5% in Hawaii. Nationwide, AY.1 has hovered around 0.1% of cases.

"Right now, I think there's not a lot that we know. But in terms of the risk that it poses to public health, the prevalence is very low in the U.S. and we don't really anticipate that the substitutions [of AY.4.2] are going to have a significant impact on either the effectiveness of our vaccines or its susceptibility to monoclonal antibody treatments," said Galloway.

In the U.K., AY.4.2 has climbed to more than 11% of cases of the Delta variant. Health officials there say the variant does not appear to have led to a "significant reduction" in vaccine effectiveness or an uptick in hospitalizations, but it [could be](#) spreading faster because of "slightly increased biological transmissibility."

"Estimated growth rates remain slightly higher for AY.4.2 than for Delta, and the household secondary attack rate is higher for AY.4.2 cases than for other Delta cases," said a report [published Friday](#) by the U.K. Health Security Agency.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that AY.4.2 has made up less than 0.05% of circulating cases in the U.S. for several weeks, according to an agency spokesperson. Grouped together, [CDC estimates](#) that the [Delta variant](#) and its sub-lineages has been virtually 100% of cases in the U.S. for months.

"Even based on the data in the U.K., if you look at the transmission advantage, it looks smaller. It's not like Delta, which as soon as they came in, it was almost a 50[%] to 60% advantage over all previous lineages," says Dr. Karthik Gangavarapu, a postdoctoral researcher at UCLA's Suchard group.

Gangavarapu was part of the team to lead Scripps Research's variant tracking effort at Outbreak.info, which has tracked variants like AY.4.2 as they have emerged in an international database of "sequenced" viruses maintained by a group called the [GISAID Initiative](#).

"It could have a slight transmission advantage, but it could also have other factors that are important. For example, how is the population immunity in a given location? What is the vaccination rate? Those may have some sort of impact on how the variant is spreading," said Gangavarapu.

The largest share of circulating virus in the U.S. remains closely related to the original Delta variant, [among samples](#) reported to GISAID. Scientists have speculated that the next major variant of concern could emerge as a mutation from the Delta variant, though Gangavarapu cautioned that highly-contagious strains have arisen largely independently from one another.

	<p>Delta variant sub-lineages like AY.25, AY.3, and AY.44 also currently make up large U.S. proportions of cases, though not necessarily because they have an advantage over their siblings.</p> <p>Outbreak.info had previously counted AY.4.2 sightings in at least 35 states. However, Gangavarapu said <a href="#">a bug</a> in the "Pangolin" system used to generate reports of variants had resulted in some false positives for the sub-lineage showing up in some tallies.</p> <p>New sub-lineages are frequently <a href="#">re-categorized by scientists</a> to "help researchers track the virus" clustered in certain regions, even when they sport mutations that end up having no meaningful impact on the public health risk of the variant.</p> <p>"Probably over the next month or so we will get more data to actually see if there is the same sort of increase in prevalence that we see in the U.K. in the U.S. as of now," says Gangavarapu.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Climate change sparks imminent warfare?</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/where-will-the-first-climate-wars-break-out?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/where-will-the-first-climate-wars-break-out?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p>Climate-related warfare is a near-term reality—not some far-off boogeyman—according to leading defense thinkers and military strategists. They are still talking about the importance of fighting <a href="#">climate change</a>, but they're also making plans to fight other human beings <i>because</i> of climate change.</p> <p>So, where will these climate-related battles take place?</p> <p>Some people argue they already have, with controversial academic reports claiming recent conflicts were directly spurred by the effects of climate change. Other military advisers and strategists have identified specific new wars that could erupt in Asia, Africa, or the Arctic.</p> <p>The Atlantic Council, an American think tank, suggested <a href="#">in March</a> that as <a href="#">Russia</a> and <a href="#">China</a> look to new shipping routes through previously frozen, impassable waters around Greenland, Iceland and the Arctic Circle, there could be a new era of great power competition in the region.</p> <p>Britain and the U.S. have responded to a huge increase in Russian and Chinese activity in the area with a beefed up military and naval presence. An American aircraft carrier recently ventured into the Arctic Circle for the first time since the end of the <a href="#">Cold War</a>.</p> <p>Matthew Rendall, a lecturer at the University of Nottingham whose research focuses on climate change and international relations, argues that it is more likely that less stable, more disaster-prone places like Syria or Somalia will become the climate battlefields. "They are already hot. Most of them are also a lot poorer. As a result, they're more likely to suffer acute resource shortages, mass migration of refugees, and political instability."</p> <p>"Moreover," Rendall said, "China and Russia have nuclear weapons. They may quarrel over the Arctic, but they are unlikely to fight World War III over it—that would just be too costly."</p> <p>According to a recent <a href="#">article</a> published by the political risk analysis firm Global Risk Insights, there may already be reasons to think violence in Somalia is linked to climate change. Millions of Somali people have begun to face food insecurity after "almost continuous dry spells since the 2011 East Africa drought." While studies of past conflicts have not conclusively linked these effects to the increased presence of the jihadist group al-Shabaab, the article argues that "jihadists benefit from climate-induced livelihood loss and food insecurity," and as the climate worsens, they can use offers of things like food and protection to recruit the vulnerable. "</p> <p>The Pentagon is making nearly identical observations as Global Risk Insights, without directly naming the potential combatants. "As climate changes," according to the U.S. Department of Defense's plan which was first published in September and then publicized earlier this month, "there may be commensurate</p>

alterations in local and regional politics to mitigate food and water shortages. These political adjustments could result in increased physical and cyber terrorist attacks from unknown third parties.”

The Pentagon’s [new “Climate Adaptation Plan”](#) is illustrated with a photo of two awestruck soldiers standing in California’s Mojave desert, silhouetted against a giant, all-consuming sun on the horizon. The image undeniably evoked the mushroom clouds U.S. military photographers captured in the Southwestern desert three-quarters of a century ago. The sun’s useful—but increasingly oppressive—energy is now at the forefront of the Pentagon’s thinking just as atomic energy animated the American militarism of a bygone era.

In 2015, a research team led by Colin P. Kelley, a researcher at Columbia University, produced a [well-publicized](#) study concluding that the now decade-long civil war in Syria was worsened by climate change-related heatwaves and drought and the subsequent fights over resources, which stirred up the unrest put down so brutally by President Bashar al-Assad.

Olaf Corry, University of Leeds professor of global security challenges, told The Daily Beast that while climate change will certainly have a “huge” impact on security, the conflict in Syria is a bad example, because he sees major weaknesses in the research linking that conflict to climate issues. Among other factors, he said, “The droughts were in the wrong place to correlate with the places the unrest broke out that were the trigger for the Assad crackdown.”

“We don’t want to let those responsible for starting wars erroneously point to ‘climate’ and thereby get off the hook,” Corry explained.

It may be that we should focus less on conflicts over resources, and more on what happens when there’s simply less land due to rising sea levels. Shafqat Munir, head of the Bangladesh Center for Terrorism Research reminded the attendees of the Seoul Defense Dialogue last month that his country is expected to rapidly lose about 14 percent of its total landmass. From a terrorism researcher’s standpoint, he said, “As you can imagine ladies and gentlemen, it is going to be a very grave disaster.”

For instance, the Rangpur district of Bangladesh has been transformed by recent floods, experiencing its worst flooding in 60 years [last year](#). That same district has also experienced an apparent rise in conflict between Hindus and Muslims. Over the past few weeks in the Rangpur district, Islamist groups have [reportedly committed arson attacks](#) against dozens of Hindus during the Durga Puja Hindu festival. A clear link between climate and this violence hasn’t been established, but the changing climate is on the minds of ordinary citizens in Bangladesh according to Munir. “From my perch in Dhaka, Bangladesh, climate change is not a theory because we live it every moment,” he told the Seoul Defense Dialogue.

It was [the first time](#) the Seoul Defense Dialogue, an international meeting of military minds from Southeast Asian countries, South Korea, and some of their Western allies, had ever dedicated an entire panel to the topic of climate.

If we fail to lower emissions very soon, “militaries should be planning for profound insecurity and more military missions later in this century, or possibly sooner if we hit certain tipping points,” said Sharon Burke, president of the defense research firm Ecospherics, and a former assistant secretary of defense under President Obama.

Overwhelmingly, the focus of the conversations at the Seoul Defense Dialogue was not where these new conflicts would take place, but rather, strategies for engaging in warfare under hotter, stormier, less predictable conditions. Bangladeshi peacekeeping forces in Mali, where Bangladesh has been operating since 2014, have encountered increasingly inhospitable temperatures. But more to the point, according to Munir, they’ve had communications equipment fail due to the heat.

“The shift I see happening among [U.S.] defense policymakers,” said Jeff Colgan, a professor of political science at Brown University, and director of the Climate Solutions Lab, “is that they are starting to see

climate change not just as a ‘threat multiplier’ (the Pentagon’s favorite phrase) or as a single issue, but as altering the whole strategic landscape that the United States faces.”

As John Kerry, special presidential envoy for climate, tweeted shortly after the election of Joe Biden, “America will soon have a government that treats the climate crisis as the urgent national security threat it is.”

Corry, the University of Leeds professor, said Kerry’s tweet was an example of climate “securitization”—which he defined as “making something understood through the lens of security.” Corry questioned this approach, asking “Why is it ‘national security’ and not ‘human security’ or an ‘ecological security’ crisis?”

The military strategies being generated to confront these new issues focus on adapting to the new challenges, not massively reducing their own carbon footprints. The Pentagon’s climate change plan does talk about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but “mitigation” is third on the plan’s list of guiding terms, after “adaptation” and “resilience.”

The Department of Defense consumes up to 80 percent of the U.S. federal government’s energy, according to a [2019 report](#) by The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. That same report also notes that the U.S. military’s 2017 greenhouse gas emissions—about 59 million metric tons—exceed those of the entire country of Sweden.

“If the rich countries—the chief causers of global warming—start pouring money into their national security apparatus instead of decarbonization and helping vulnerable countries adapt, it will add insult to injury,” Corry said.

Perhaps it’s time U.S. military leaders, in particular, spent less time planning for new climate-related warfare and more time figuring out how they can stop making it more likely.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Russian region extends off-work order</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/russian-region-extends-off-work-order-covid-19-80905257">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/russian-region-extends-off-work-order-covid-19-80905257</a>
GIST	<p>MOSCOW -- Authorities in Russia's Novgorod region on Monday ordered most residents to stay off work for one more week starting Nov. 8 as coronavirus infections and deaths remained at all-time highs.</p> <p>The Novgorod region was the first region to extend the nationwide non-working period between Oct. 30-Nov. 7 that was ordered by President Vladimir Putin.</p> <p>Russia’s state coronavirus task force on Monday reported more than 40,000 new confirmed COVID-19 cases for the third straight day and more than 1,100 deaths for the seventh day in a row - the highest levels in each category since the start of the pandemic.</p> <p>Putin has said that governments in regions where the situation is the most dire could start the non-working days earlier and extend them if needed.</p> <p>In Moscow, the non-working period started on Oct. 28, with city authorities shutting down many non-essential businesses. In the Novgorod region roughly 500 kilometers (310 miles) northwest of the Russian capital, non-working days began on Oct. 25.</p> <p>On Monday, Novgorod's regional coronavirus task force reported 284 new infections — double the daily tally from a month ago when just over 140 new confirmed cases were reported each day. Governor Andrei Nikitin said there is no reason to expect the situation improving any time soon.</p> <p>Russia’s daily numbers of coronavirus infections and deaths have been surging for weeks amid low vaccine uptake, lax public attitudes toward taking precautions and the government’s reluctance to toughen</p>

	<p>restrictions. Less than 35% of Russia's nearly 146 million people have been fully vaccinated so far, even though Russia was among the first in the world to approve and roll out a coronavirus vaccine.</p> <p>The nonworking period is aimed to curb the spread by keeping people out of offices and off crowded public transportation. But in some cities including Moscow, restrictions have been loosely observed, and many people rushed to popular holiday destinations, such as Russia's Black Sea resorts, to take advantage of the break.</p> <p>Anna Popova, head of Russia's public health agency, Rospotrebnadzor, told a government meeting on Monday that infections continued to grow in 78 of the more than 80 Russian regions.</p> <p>President Putin on Monday described the situation as “very difficult” during a meeting with military officials and arms makers. “More than 40,000 of those infected. It has never happened (before),” the Russian leader said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Hawaii cases drop; restrictions still remain</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hawaii-holds-virus-restrictions-cases-plummet-80913207">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/hawaii-holds-virus-restrictions-cases-plummet-80913207</a>
GIST	<p>HONOLULU -- Hawaii remains among the most restrictive states for COVID-19 mandates, despite having one of the highest vaccination rates in the country.</p> <p>Various state and county rules have changed often, leaving some businesses, travelers and residents confused and frustrated.</p> <p>Hawaii Gov. David Ige said earlier this year that all restrictions would end once 70% of the population was fully vaccinated. But a surge of delta variant cases filled hospitals and extended rules to guard against COVID-19.</p> <p>Now, case counts have dropped and about 83% of eligible Hawaii residents are fully vaccinated. But many rules remain in place.</p> <p>Germaine Malabanan plans to get married on Oahu this month after her wedding was delayed twice because of the pandemic.</p> <p>Security guards that are required for weddings will make sure her guests are wearing masks even while outdoors, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Monday.</p> <p>“If everyone is vaccinated and we are all outside, I don’t see why we need the masks,” Malabanan said.</p> <p>The rules also mean unvaccinated guests can’t come. While most venues on Oahu allow proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for admission, regulations don't allow weddings to use the testing option.</p> <p>“From what I understand, Hawaii has one of the best, if not the best, turnouts for the vaccine, and we are still one of the most restricted and shut-down places,” said Joseph Esser, a wedding photographer and president of the Oahu Wedding Association.</p> <p>The wedding rules are part of a complicated set of statewide and county restrictions.</p> <p>In early July, most U.S. states had scaled back mask and other coronavirus restrictions. The delta variant surge pushed some jurisdictions to reinstate rules, but many are again easing as cases currently plummet.</p> <p>Ige’s latest 50-page emergency proclamation outlines the various measures.</p>

For example, passengers cannot ride in a private car without a mask unless everyone is a member of the same household or fully vaccinated. People are forbidden from mingling at restaurants and bars. And private indoor gatherings of more than 10 people are not allowed.

“We look at many factors before implementing or reducing restrictions,” Ige told the Star-Advertiser in a statement. “Large-scale gatherings could easily and rapidly result in the kind of surge that could force us to reinstate restrictions, which we would like to avoid.”

County rules can vary, and changes need clearance from the governor.

On Oahu, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi announced last week that some restrictions will relax beginning Wednesday — but some people are still confused.

Masks are not required for participants of outdoor marathons, but they are required for outdoor parties, weddings and funerals.

No food or drinks are allowed at football games, but they are OK in movie theaters.

To go to a concert, people must be fully vaccinated. But to go to a bar, patrons can show a negative COVID test.

Peter Yee, a Maui car rental employee who was laid off last year, said the restrictions have been too harsh on workers.

“People are exhausted from the restrictions,” he said. “That’s the vibe in Hawaii.”

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Judge rules for opioid makers in lawsuit</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/california-judge-rules-opioid-makers-damages-lawsuit-80916892">https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/california-judge-rules-opioid-makers-damages-lawsuit-80916892</a>
GIST	<p>LOS ANGELES -- A California judge has ruled for top drug manufacturers as local governments seek billions of dollars to cover their costs from the nation’s opioid epidemic.</p> <p>Orange County Superior Court Judge Peter Wilson issued a tentative ruling on Monday that said the governments hadn’t proven the pharmaceutical companies used deceptive marketing to increase unnecessary opioid prescriptions and create a public nuisance.</p> <p>“There is simply no evidence to show that the rise in prescriptions was not the result of the medically appropriate provision of pain medications to patients in need,” Wilson wrote in a ruling of more than 40 pages.</p> <p>“Any adverse downstream consequences flowing from medically appropriate prescriptions cannot constitute an actionable public nuisance,” the ruling said.</p> <p>Los Angeles, Orange and Santa Clara counties and the city of Oakland argued that the pharmaceutical companies misled both doctors and patients by downplaying the risks of addictions, overdoses, deaths and other health complications while overstating the benefits for long-term health conditions.</p> <p>The plaintiffs said they were disappointed by the ruling but planned to appeal to “ensure no opioid manufacturer can engage in reckless corporate practices that compromise public health in the state for their own profit.”</p> <p>The lawsuit names Johnson &amp; Johnson, along with AbbVie Inc’s Allergan subsidiary, Endo International, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries and others.</p>



The companies had argued in court filings “that opioid medications are an appropriate treatment for many chronic-pain patients” and that much of their marketing mimicked approved warnings by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Historically, the local jurisdictions say, the powerful drugs had been used only immediately after surgeries or for other acute, short-term pain, or for cancer or palliative care.

The drugmakers “successfully transformed the way doctors treat chronic pain, opening the floodgates of opioid prescribing and use,” the lawsuit contended. “This explosion in opioid prescriptions and use has padded Defendants’ profit margins at the expense of chronic pain patients.”

The federal government says nearly a half-million Americans have died from opioid abuse since 2001.

All sides have acknowledged that there is an opioid abuse epidemic.

Wilson said drug abuse hospitalizations and overdose deaths “starkly demonstrate the enormity of the ongoing problem.”

In a statement, Johnson & Johnson said the “crisis is a tremendously complex public health issue” but the decision showed it engaged in “appropriate and responsible” marketing of its prescription painkillers.

Endo International said the decision was “thorough and thoughtful” following months of testimony and that the company’s “lawful conduct did not cause the widespread public nuisance at issue” in the lawsuit.

Teva said it was pleased with the ruling but “a clear win for the many patients in the U.S. who suffer from opioid addiction will only come when comprehensive settlements are finalized and resources are made available to all who need them.”

The plaintiffs projected that, based on experts’ estimates, it could cost \$50 billion to provide comprehensive opioid abatement programs in the four jurisdictions that filed the lawsuit. The money would go for things like ongoing opioid abuse prevention and treatment programs in Los Angeles and Santa Clara counties.

The California case was the first such U.S. lawsuit when it was filed in 2014, prosecutors said at the time. But thousands of similar lawsuits have since been filed nationwide by cities, counties and states.

It was just the second such case to go to trial, after an Oklahoma judge ordered Johnson & Johnson to pay \$465 million in 2019. The company is appealing that decision.

A similar trial is underway in federal court in West Virginia, where local governments sued the nation’s three biggest drug-distribution companies: AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. Other lawsuits have resulted in massive settlements or proposed settlements.

Johnson & Johnson and those three companies in July were in the final stages of negotiating a \$26 billion settlement covering thousands of government lawsuits, though it could take months to get final approval from state and local governments.

New York state separately has a \$1 billion-plus deal involving the three drug distributors. But it is going to trial against are Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Endo International and AbbVie Inc., the same defendants as in the California case.

Without admitting wrongdoing, Johnson & Johnson previously settled with New York for \$230 million before a trial started there against manufacturers, regional distribution companies and pharmacies. Johnson & Johnson has said it is prepared to contribute up to \$5 billion to a national settlement.

	The deals did not stop the trials in West Virginia and California. The weekslong California trial started April 19.
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 China farmers face climate woes</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ordinary-people-suffer-china-farms-face-climate-woes-80917271">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ordinary-people-suffer-china-farms-face-climate-woes-80917271</a>
GIST	<p>JIAOZUO, China -- Wang Yuetang's sneakers sink into the mud of what was once his thriving corn and peanut farm as he surveys the damage done by an unstable climate.</p> <p>Three months after torrential rains flooded much of central China's Henan province, stretches of the country's flat agricultural heartland are still submerged in several inches of water. It's one of the many calamities around the world that are giving urgency to the U.N. climate summit underway in Glasgow, Scotland.</p> <p>"There is nothing this year. It's all gone," Wang said. "Farmers on the lowland basically have no harvest, nothing." He lost his summer crop to floods, and in late October the ground was still too wet to plant the next season's crop, winter wheat.</p> <p>On other nearby farms, shriveled beanstalks and rotted cabbage heads bob in the dank water, buzzing with flies. Some of the corn ears can be salvaged, but because the husks are moldy, they can be sold only as animal feed, bringing lower prices.</p> <p>The flooding disaster is the worst that farmers in Henan like Wang can remember in 40 years — but it is also a preview of the kind of extreme conditions the country is likely to face as the planet warms and the weather patterns growers depend upon are increasingly destabilized.</p> <p>"As the atmosphere warms up, air can hold more moisture, so when storms occur, they can rain out more extreme precipitation," said Richard Seager, a climate scientist at Columbia University. "Chances are extremely likely that human-induced climate change caused the extreme flooding you saw this summer in places like China and Europe."</p> <p>China, the most populous country in the world, with 1.4 billion people, is now the planet's largest contributor to climate change, responsible for around 28% of carbon dioxide emissions that warm the Earth, though the United States is the biggest polluter historically.</p> <p>As world leaders take part this week in the climate summit, China is being criticized for not setting a more ambitious timeline for phasing out fossil fuels.</p> <p>President Xi Jinping, who has not left China since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be attending the summit but sent a veteran negotiator, has said the country's carbon emissions will level off before 2030. Critics say that's not soon enough.</p> <p>Chinese government projections paint a worrying vision of the future: rising sea levels threatening major coastal cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong, and melting glaciers and permafrost imperiling western China's water supply and grand infrastructure projects such as the railroads across the Tibetan plateau.</p> <p>Top government scientists also predict an increase in droughts, heat waves and extreme rainfall across China that could threaten harvests and endanger reservoirs and dams, including Three Gorges Dam.</p> <p>Meanwhile, China's people are already suffering the brunt of climate change. And in a common pattern around the world, those who have contributed least to the warming and have the fewest resources to adapt often feel the pain most acutely.</p>

In late July, Chinese news broadcasts carried startling footage of torrential rains swamping Henan's provincial capital, Zhengzhou — at one point, 8 inches (20 centimeters) fell in a single hour — with cars swept away, subways flooded and people struggling through waist-deep water. More than 300 people died as the megacity turned into an accidental Venice, its highways transformed into muddy canals.

Even after the most dramatic storms ceased, the water continued to pool in much of the surrounding countryside, a flat and fertile region.

Here the economy depends on corn, wheat and vegetables, and other regions of China depend on Henan for food. The local government reported that nearly 3 million acres (1.2 million hectares) of farmland were flooded — an area about the size of Connecticut — with damage totaling \$18 billion.

“All I could do at the time was to watch the heavens cry, cry and cry every day,” said Wang, the peanut farmer.

A limited number of rudimentary pumps were shared among farmers in Henan. Soft plastic tubes were stretched across fields to drain water, but they periodically burst, sending farmers running to patch holes.

A 58-year-old farmer who gave only her last name, Song, said everything she owned was submerged by the floods — her home, furniture, fields, farming equipment.

“Nothing was harvested. This year, the common people have been suffering all year long,” she said. “Ordinary people suffer most.”

“We have been working so hard, breaking our backs ... without even a penny back, my heart aches,” said Hou Beibei, a farmer whose simple vegetable greenhouses — plastic tarps covering plots of eggplant, garlic and celery — remain flooded, her hard work washed away.

She is worried about her two young children. “The tuition fees of the children and the living expenses of the whole family rely on this land,” she said.

The summer also saw another climate-linked natural disaster in China. In July, the hottest month on Earth in 142 years of record-keeping, according to U.S. weather experts, a vast and toxic blue-green algae bloom spanning 675 square miles (1,748 square kilometers) engulfed coastal waters off the prosperous city of Qingdao, threatening navigation, fishing and tourism. State broadcasts carried footage of people using dump trucks to remove the mounds of algae.

Another threat to China's coastal provinces is sea level rise. Government records show that coastal water levels have already risen around 4.8 inches (122 millimeters) between 1980 and 2017 and project that within the next 30 years, waters could rise an additional 2.8 to 6.3 inches (70 to 160 millimeters).

Because China's coastal areas are largely flat, “a slight rise in the sea level will aggravate the flooding of a large area of land,” erasing expensive waterfront properties and critical habitats, a government report projects.

“I think these impacts are triggering a national awakening. I think people are increasingly asking, ‘Why have extreme weather events like this happened? What are the root causes?’” said Li Shuo, a climate policy expert at Greenpeace East Asia in Beijing.

“I think this is bringing the Chinese policymakers and the general public to a realization that we are indeed in a climate emergency.”

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HEADLINE	11/01 Mexico officers fire on migrant truck
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SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexican-officers-fire-pickup-carrying-migrants-killing-80914708">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexican-officers-fire-pickup-carrying-migrants-killing-80914708</a>
GIST	<p>PIJIJAPAN, Mexico -- Mexico's National Guard said Monday that its officers opened fire when a pickup truck carrying migrants tried to avoid an immigration checkpoint and ram a patrol vehicle, and the gunfire killed one migrant and wounded four others.</p> <p>Prosecutors in the southern state of Chiapas said in a statement that the dead man was a Cuban citizen, but did not supply his full name.</p> <p>Apparently, the migrants in the truck were not part of some 4,000 mainly Central Americans who are seeking to reach Mexico City on foot. The shooting late Sunday occurred about 25 miles (40 kilometers) from where the migrant march was.</p> <p>A statement from the National Guard said the truck ignored orders to stop for an inspection near the town of Pijijiapan and tried to ram a patrol vehicle. It said officers opened fire because the driver of the truck "put at imminent risk their safety" by trying to ram their patrol vehicle.</p> <p>The pickup was carrying a total of 13 migrants, most from Cuba but there also three from Ghana, the Guard said. They and the driver were detained. The wounded migrants were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. According to prosecutors in the southern state of Chiapas, a rifle was found in the truck.</p> <p>Meanwhile, migrant rights advocates and aid workers travelling with the caravan estimated there could be 1,000 children in the group whose participants have spent days trudging along highways under a punishing sun.</p> <p>The Mexican government has been attempting to discourage the march, saying the poor conditions are putting the migrants' lives at risk.</p> <p>On Monday, the National Immigration Institute said six cases of the tropical fever dengue had been detected among members of the migrant march. The institute said five of the cases were minors, one of whom was taken to a hospital for treatment of a severe case of hemorrhagic dengue. It said the adult companions of three of the other dengue cases had refused treatment.</p> <p>Much larger caravans crossed Mexico in 2018 and 2019, but those migrants never tried to walk the whole distance. They usually caught rides aboard passing trucks.</p> <p>But Mexico has told truckers not to pick up migrants, saying they could face charges of migrant trafficking. The migrants are also afraid of becoming separated from the group, for fear they will be rounded up and deported.</p> <p>Cuban migrants seeking to cross the border to the U.S. often contract the services of migrant smugglers.</p> <p>Deadly confrontations between law enforcement and migrants remain relatively rare in Mexico, but a National Guard officer was killed by suspected immigrant traffickers in September.</p> <p>And a dozen members of an elite police force in the northern border state of Tamaulipas are on trial for allegedly killing 14 Guatemalan migrants and five other people, whose bodies were found shot and burned near the U.S. border in late January.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 France offers reprieve for Britain</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roll-uk-stands-firm-french-threats-80899601">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/roll-uk-stands-firm-french-threats-80899601</a>
GIST	GLASGOW, Scotland -- France's president offered Britain extra time for negotiations on Monday to try to reach a compromise on a troubling post-Brexit fishing spat, hours ahead of a threatened French blockade of British ships and trucks.

France has threatened to bar British boats from some of its ports and tighten checks on boats and trucks carrying British goods if more French vessels aren't licensed to fish in U.K. waters by Tuesday. Paris has also suggested it might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, which are heavily dependent on French electricity.

The French government had said the port blockade would begin at midnight Monday if no compromise was found. But late in the day, French President Emmanuel Macron's office said talks would continue this week and no measures would be taken until at least through Thursday.

Speaking to reporters Monday in Glasgow, Scotland, where he is attending an international climate conference, Macron said the discussions center on a proposal he made to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson after they met at the G-20 meeting in Rome on Sunday.

"I asked the British to come back to us tomorrow with other propositions," Macron said. "We will see where we are at the end of day tomorrow."

The British government has said throughout the long-running dispute that it is not engaged in a negotiation, and it is entirely up to France to end the conflict, which centers on fishing licenses in the English Channel. The spat has turned into a big sticking point in EU-Britain relations after the U.K. left the bloc earlier this year.

The British government welcomed France's move to delay its ultimatum.

"As we have said consistently, we are ready to continue intensive discussions on fisheries, including considering any new evidence to support the remaining license applications," the U.K. government said in a statement. "We welcome France's acknowledgement that in-depth discussions are needed to resolve the range of difficulties in the U.K.-EU relationship."

The two countries said Britain's Brexit minister, David Frost, and French Europe Minister Clement Beaune would hold talks in Paris on Thursday.

Earlier Monday, the European Commission said it had called a meeting involving officials from Britain, France and the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey, which are self-governing British Crown dependencies with control over their own territorial waters, "to allow for a swift solution on the outstanding issues" in the dispute over French fishing boats' access to British waters.

The fishing spat has escalated into a major U.K.-French dispute, with both sides accusing each other of contravening the Brexit trade deal that the U.K. signed when it left the EU.

Paris says authorities in the Channel Islands and Britain have denied permits to French boats that have fished in waters where they have long sailed, scooping up lobster, sea snails, sea bream and other fish from the English Channel. Britain says it has granted 98% of applications from EU vessels, a proportion that French authorities have questioned.

Britain says a few dozen boats have not been given permits because they have not shown the required paperwork to back up their applications.

"We absolutely stand ready to grant more licenses should the requisite evidence be provided," said the British prime minister's spokesman, Max Blain.

As Monday's talks took place, anxious French fishing crews unloaded scallops on the French coast near the British island of Jersey, tense about what the coming hours would bring.

Jersey, which is only 14 miles off the coast of France, issued 49 temporary licenses to French boats. The government of Jersey said the vessels will be able to fish in Jersey waters until Jan. 31 to “grant time” for further data that is necessary for it issue permanent licenses.

Fishing is a tiny industry economically, but one that looms large symbolically for both Britain and France, which have long and cherished maritime traditions. Since the start of the year, both sides have control of their waters, subject to the post-Brexit trade deal.

Dimitri Rogoff, who heads the regional fishing committee on the French coast near Jersey, said French crews have been providing paperwork for 10 months. He said he didn’t understand why Britain is making a big deal over “20 or 30 boats,” and that he hoped that the French government’s threats could “incite our British friends to be a bit more conciliatory.”

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss warned France that the U.K. will “not roll over” in the face of what she termed “unreasonable” threats from Paris.

“The French need to withdraw those threats, otherwise we will use the dispute resolution mechanism in the EU deal to take action,” Truss told BBC radio. “We’re simply not going to roll over in the face of these threats.”

Macron noted that the dispute stemmed from Britain's decision to leave the EU, saying, “‘Get Brexit Done’ wasn’t my motto.”

While Macron said it was important to defend the French fishing industry, he expressed hope for a negotiated solution so that the countries could work together on other problems.

“The United Kingdom and European Union have so many challenges — climate change, technological change, the cohesion of our nations, geopolitics,” Macron said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Australia PM decries France president
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/australia-prime-minister-attacks-french-leaders-credibility-80914850">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/australia-prime-minister-attacks-french-leaders-credibility-80914850</a>
GIST	<p>CANBERRA, Australia -- Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison attacked the credibility of French President Emmanuel Macron as a newspaper quoted a text message that suggested France anticipated “bad news” about a now-scuttled submarine deal.</p> <p>An Australia newspaper cast doubt on President Joe Biden’s explanation to Macron last week that the U.S. leader thought the French had been informed long before the September announcement that their 90 billion Australian dollar (\$66 billion) submarine deal with Australia would be scrapped.</p> <p>Macron this week accused Morrison of lying to him at a Paris dinner in June about the fate of a 5-year-old contract with majority French state-owned Naval Group to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines. Australia canceled that deal when it formed an alliance with U.S. and Britain to acquire a fleet of eight nuclear-powered submarines built with U.S. technology.</p> <p>Morrison told Australian reporters who had accompanied him to Glasgow, Scotland, for a U.N. climate conference that he made clear to Macron at their dinner in June that conventional submarines would not meet Australia’s evolving strategic needs.</p> <p>Two days before Morrison, Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the nuclear submarine deal, Morrison attempted to phone Macron with the news, but the French leader texted back saying he was not available to take a call, The Australian newspaper reported.</p>



Macron asked: “Should I expect good or bad news for our joint submarines ambitions?” the newspaper reported Tuesday.

A journalist asked why Morrison decided to leak the text message after Macron accused him of lying, but the prime minister did not directly answer.

“I’m not going to indulge your editorial on it, but what I’ll simply say is this: We were contacted when we were trying to set up the ... call and he made it pretty clear that he was concerned that this would be a phone call that could result in the decision of Australia not to proceed with the contract,” Morrison said.

French officials said their government had been blindsided by the contract cancellation which French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian described as a “stab in the back.”

Macron said this week the nuclear submarine deal was “very bad news for the credibility of Australia and very bad news for the trust that great partners can have with Australia.”

Morrison said Macron’s accusation of lying, which the prime minister denies, was a slur against Australia. Most Australian observers see it as a personal insult against Morrison.

“I don’t wish to personalize this, there’s no element of that from my perspective,” Morrison said.

“I must say that I think the statements that were made questioning Australia’s integrity and the slurs that have been placed on Australia, not me — I’ve got broad shoulders, I can deal with that — but those slurs, I’m not going to cop sledging of Australia. I’m not going to cop that on behalf of Australians,” Morrison said. Sledging is a cricketering term for abusive needling of opponents.

Biden told Macron that the handling of the Australian submarine alliance was “clumsy” and “not done with a lot of grace.”

“I was under the impression that France had been informed long before that the (French) deal would not go through. I honest to God did not know you had not,” Biden told Macron.

But a 15-page document negotiated by the White House National Security Council with Australian and British officials detailed to the hour how the world would be told about the trilateral submarine deal, The Australian reported.

Defense Minister Peter Dutton confirmed that the United States and Britain were kept informed on Australia’s dealings with France, saying the three nuclear-propulsion allies “worked very closely together in lockstep.”

“There was a no-surprises strategy,” Dutton told Sydney Radio 2GB.

“The United States and the United Kingdom were kept informed of our every move, and similarly us of theirs, and the suggestion that we went outside of that or there was some other process is, of course, just plain wrong,” Dutton added.

Malcolm Turnbull, the Australian prime minister who signed the French submarine contract and considers Macron a personal friend, has accused News Corp newspapers, including The Australian, of being biased toward Morrison’s conservative government.

Morrison “can twist and turn and leak a text message here and leak a document there to his stenographic friends in the media, but ultimately the failure here was one of not being honest,” Turnbull said.

Former Foreign Minister Julie Bishop warned that the government’s apparent leaking of Macron’s text message would escalate bilateral tensions and could damage international trust in Australia.

	<p>“The French president has an election coming up. There are all sorts of pressures on him and I think for us to lower the tone by leaking private text messages — really?” said Bishop, who was foreign minister and Morrison’s Cabinet colleague from 2013 until 2018.</p> <p>“I’m concerned that the rest of the world will look at Australia and say: Nah. Can Australia be trusted on contracts not to leak private messages?” she added.</p> <p>Opposition leader Anthony Albanese, who aims to replace Morrison as prime minister at elections due by May, echoed Bishop’s criticism of the leaked text.</p> <p>“The leaking of this text message is a considerable escalation of the conflict,” Albanese said.</p> <p>“Diplomacy requires trust and it requires somber engagement between leaders,” he added.</p> <p>French Ambassador to Australia Jean-Pierre Thebault, who was recalled to Paris in protest at the scrapping of the submarine contract, will outline French complaints about the government’s behavior when he addresses the National Press Club of Australia on Wednesday.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Marine Payne on Monday had her first meeting with Thebault since his return. Payne said in a statement the pair had a constructive discussion and their meeting was an important step in advancing the bilateral relationship.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Historic rise gun violence amid lockdowns</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/experts-gun-violence-rose-2020-amid-pandemic-lockdowns/story?id=80466932">https://abcnews.go.com/US/experts-gun-violence-rose-2020-amid-pandemic-lockdowns/story?id=80466932</a>
GIST	<p>The U.S. was gripped by two public <a href="#">health</a> crises in 2020: the COVID-19 pandemic and a historic rise in gun violence.</p> <p>Even as cities locked down, people retreated into their homes and life was seemingly put on pause last year, 2020 still marked the deadliest year for gun violence in at least two decades, according to data from the <a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</a> (CDC).</p> <p>There were more than 19,400 homicides involving a gun and accidental fatal shootings -- a 25% increase from 2019, according to data from the <a href="#">Gun Violence Archive</a>. Gun suicides reached 24,000 last year, matching the year prior.</p> <p>Experts say it's not easy to identify one precise reason for the rise in gun violence.</p> <p>Rather, 2020 was a turbulent time that presented COVID-19 concerns and economic downturn as well as a racial reckoning that rocked communities in multiple ways, including massive protests and civil unrest.</p> <p>It also was a time when an estimated 23 million guns were purchased -- a 65% increase from 2019, according to <a href="#">Small Arms Analytics</a>, a consulting firm that tracks gun sales. It is unclear if the increase in gun purchases was linked to the increase in gun violence and research is split on the connection generally.</p> <p>The violence unfolded across the country, big and small cities alike. Overall, 57% of 129 law enforcement agencies surveyed across the nation by the Police Executive Research Forum reported an increase in gun homicides from 2019 to 2020, according to the <a href="#">January 2021 report</a>.</p> <p>The agencies serving the biggest cities reported a 75% increase in firearm homicides in 2020 compared to 2019, and all surveyed agencies also reported a nearly 70% increase in nonfatal shootings.</p> <p>Colorado mother-of-three Ana Thallas' life changed forever amid the pandemic when her daughter Isabella was fatally shot while walking her dog with her boyfriend in a Denver park on June 10, 2020, just two days after her 21st birthday. Her boyfriend was shot twice by the suspect but survived.</p>

The [Denver District Attorney's office](#) said that Michael Close, 37, allegedly got into an argument with the couple "over a command they used to have their dog defecate," and he opened fire with an assault rifle.

"I never thought my daughter would be slaughtered mid-morning walking a dog in the middle of the city," Thallas told ABC News. "This pandemic has created fear within people. Just having to be secluded, cooped up and isolated contributed to the mental health crisis. Fear turns into anger, and the anger turns into violence."

### **2020 was a 'perfect storm'**

Dr. Daniel Webster, the director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, said 2020 was the "perfect storm" of conditions where "everything bad happened at the same time -- you had the COVID outbreak, huge economic disruption, people were scared."

At the same time, after-school programs and violence disruption programs were greatly restricted, plus 2020 was an election year, during which gun purchases tend to rise for fear that the new administration will change gun policies, Webster said.

"It's particularly challenging to know with certainty which of these things independently is associated with the increased violence. Rather it was the 'cascade' of events all unfolding in a similar time frame," he added.

For instance, as kids moved to at-home online learning due to school closures and many parents either lost jobs or had to work remotely -- all while grappling with financial stress and social isolation -- there was gun violence in some of their homes.

From March to December 2020, unintentional shooting deaths by children rose 31% over the same time in 2019, resulting in 128 gun deaths, according to the [Everytown #NotAnAccident Index](#).

Unsafe storage likely played a role, experts say. A [January study](#) by the University of California, Davis violence prevention research program found "more than 50,000 Californians said they had started storing at least one of their firearms in the least secure way -- loaded and not locked up," Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz, an assistant professor with VPRP who led the study said. "Approximately half of those respondents lived in homes with children or teens."

People changed how they stored guns based on "fear and anxiety and pandemic-induced uncertainty about the future," the study found.

But storing a firearm unsecured is a massive risk, Kravitz-Wirtz said, especially for unintentional shootings and suicide. Approximately 60% of gun deaths are suicides according to [CDC data](#).

Although preliminary [CDC data](#) shows that overall suicides in the U.S. slightly decreased in 2020 compared to the year prior, gun suicides still surpassed 24,000, just as they did in 2019.

Another way gun violence played out in homes was through domestic violence incidents.

A [study entitled "Firearm purchasing and firearm violence during the coronavirus pandemic in the U.S." analyzed data from March through July 2020](#) and found that excess firearm purchasing was associated with an increase in firearm injuries from domestic violence in April and May, "particularly during the early months where social distancing was at its highest point," said Julia P. Schleimer, the main author of the report with UC Davis' violence prevention research program. The authors say that linking firearm violence to civil unrest and other factors during summer of 2020 had to be studied further.

The pandemic led to an 8% increase in calls for domestic violence services in March, April and May, the initial three months of the pandemic, in 14 large U.S. cities, according to a study published in [Journal of Public Economics](#).

The Domestic Violence Hotline also received the highest incoming volume in its history, with over 636,000 calls, chats and texts in 2020, including a [19% rise in callers](#) experiencing the use or threat of firearms last year, according to the organization.

The pandemic may have put many people in a vulnerable situation as research shows that access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser, according to the [Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence](#).

### **Impact on Black and Latino communities**

An [analysis](#) of nine U.S. cities found that over 85% of the increase in gun violence from 2019 to 2020 was in predominantly Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.

These groups had to deal with the converging crises in 2020: coronavirus and gun violence. They were already disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with Black and Hispanic people nearly twice as likely to die from COVID-19, according to [CDC data](#).

At the same time, Black people are 10 times more likely to die from gun homicide than white people, according to an [Everytown analysis](#) of the CDC's Underlying Cause of Death database. In 2019, Latino people were nearly twice as likely to be killed by guns than non-Hispanic whites, according to a study from the [Violence Policy Center](#).

In the pandemic, these groups also were disproportionately affected by job loss and [financial strife compared to white households](#), according to a summer 2020 poll by NPR, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Further, these more than half of all Black, Latino and Native American workers hold essential and nonessential jobs that must be done in person, compared to 41% of white workers, even as many jobs went remote out of safety precautions, according to a [December 2020 report by the Urban Institute](#).

John Donohue, a Stanford University law professor who studies gun violence, said time periods of stress are associated with more shootings.

"It does seem that the dislocations of the pandemic were in neighborhoods that were more vulnerable to both the economic insecurities and just pressures of a more stressful life," Donahue said. "The pandemic was a major disruption."

Kravitz-Wirtz told ABC News that the violence was concentrated "in neighborhoods that have experienced systemic racism and disinvestment."

The closure of community centers and suspension of many violence prevention organizations also led to "destabilization that can really create the conditions for violence to emerge," she added.

As gun violence played out in homes and communities, law enforcement also faced challenges responding to crime due to COVID-19 concerns and tensions with the public.

Donohue said civil unrest and police played a role in the storm.

Officers couldn't be "as effective in stopping crime," because they were responding to protests around the country in 2020 decrying racism and police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's death by Minneapolis police, Donohue said.

Several police agencies also reported they scaled back proactive enforcement due to the pandemic, such as making fewer traffic stops and suspending gun buyback programs, the Police Executive Research Forum said in their January 2021 report.

"You had police departments overtaxed in response to COVID because their officers were getting sick. Then you had the George Floyd murder and ripple effects from protests and then often violent response by law enforcement," Webster said. "There is a clear connection between trust in police and community safety, all of this takes a toll on public safety."

### **Increase in gun ownership**

Researchers at the UC Davis violence prevention research program issued a statewide survey in July 2020 that asked respondents specifically if they acquired a gun due to the pandemic as well as their concerns about violence in the health crisis. They found that an estimated 110,000 California adults acquired a firearm in response to fears stemming from the pandemic, including 47,000 new firearm owners, according to the [January study](#).

The survey respondents who bought firearms mainly did so for protection, with 76% saying they were concerned about lawlessness, 56% about prisoner releases and 49% that the government was going too far due to changes during the pandemic.

One in 10 residents surveyed also expressed fear that someone they knew may intentionally harm someone or themselves due to pandemic losses including losing a loved one, job or housing.

Experts are split on whether the stunning rise in gun purchases will fuel future firearm violence.

While there is a [broad field of research](#) that provides evidence that gun availability increases the risk for firearm violence, 2020 is unique in that other compounding factors are at play.

Last year's trends have already continued into 2021, with over 31,000 gun violence deaths recorded, according to Gun Violence Archive data, and over 27 million background checks initiated so far, according to [National Instant Criminal Background Check System data](#).

Schleimer, who studied firearm purchases and firearm violence in 2020, said it's possible that increased firearm access and continuing stressors could "result in an increased risk of firearm violence moving forward."

### **The US can 'shift the trajectory'**

Donohue, though, forecasts some of the violence could taper off with the end of the pandemic.

"As the pandemic recedes, you'll get some restoration of normality," he said. "But we still are going to have to contend with the politicians, growing power of weaponry and its increasing availability and tensions between the public and the police -- all unhelpful for restricting crime."

Kravitz-Wirtz said there's been "positive momentum" to reverse the pandemic's trend of gun violence. But she warned that root issues of inequality need to be addressed through "thriving wage" jobs, housing security and youth empowerment programs especially in Black and brown communities.

"There's a real opportunity now," Kravitz-Wirtz said. "We can really shift the trajectory that we've been experiencing in positive directions if we can follow through on the data-informed and community wisdom-informed strategies."

On a national and state level, there have been efforts to mitigate gun violence. U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced federal strike forces in five major cities to take down gun trafficking corridors over the summer, and President Joe Biden unveiled several [executive actions to combat the rise in shootings](#). The administration has also allowed [coronavirus relief funds to be used for community violence intervention](#).

In Colorado, Thallas helped get the [Isabella Joy Act](#) passed in honor of her daughter. It requires gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement within five days of realizing the weapon is missing. The Denver Police Department said the shooter in Isabella's case had taken a rifle from a friend's home without their knowledge or permission, CBS Denver affiliate [KCNC](#) reported.

	<p>Thallas is now calling for the act, which went into effect last month, to be implemented nationally.</p> <p>"Unfortunately I don't see an end to this [gun] epidemic. Encouraging responsible gun ownership would be more realistic," Thallas said. "It's our family that pays the life sentence with Isabella's death. Don't doubt this couldn't be you. Be proactive, not reactive."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Pipeline firm paid \$millions to police fund</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/pipeline-firm-deposited-millions-state-fund-pay-local/story?id=80844727">https://abcnews.go.com/US/pipeline-firm-deposited-millions-state-fund-pay-local/story?id=80844727</a>
GIST	<p>Enbridge -- a private Canadian energy corporation -- has paid more than \$2.9 million for Minnesota law enforcement and public safety organization expenses related to the company's controversial <a href="#">Line 3 oil pipeline</a> through a state-managed escrow account, according to documents obtained by ABC News through public records requests.</p> <p>The majority of the Enbridge money went toward more than \$2 million in law enforcement wages for services such as conducting proactive patrols along the pipeline route and "protecting the construction workers and equipment," according to the records.</p> <p>The account also reimbursed law enforcement hundreds of thousands of dollars for training, protective gear, transportation, hotel rooms, and meals while policing the pipeline, according to the records.</p> <p>"If a state is openly in a financial relationship with a private actor, through an escrow account, where they are paying the police to protect their project, that should concern all of the public," Northern Minnesota-based tribal attorney and prominent Line 3 opponent Tara Houska told ABC News.</p> <p>Enbridge strongly refutes the concept that they have turned local Minnesota police into a private security force, or that they had any control at all over how the account was spent.</p> <p>"The escrow account was created by the state of Minnesota through the Public Utility Commission," Enbridge Chief Communications Officer Mike Fernandez told ABC News. "All we were asked to do was contribute money to that escrow account. We make no judgments about how that money is spent. It was a condition of us actually getting the permit in order to operate."</p> <p>"The judgments are all made by professionals in the state of Minnesota that have law enforcement backgrounds, and they are the ones that make judgments on the specific payments," Fernandez said.</p> <p>The thousand-mile-long Line 3 pipeline transports Canadian tar sands oil -- a high-emissions fossil fuel often described as the world's dirtiest oil -- through indigenous lands and waters, including the vulnerable headwaters of the Mississippi River.</p> <p>The project has been the target of multiple court battles and a years-long massive civil disobedience campaign led by indigenous women in Minnesota. Opposition to the controversial project has resulted in nearly 900 arrests, including dozens around the U.S. Capitol earlier this month.</p> <p>A spokesperson for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission -- the state agency that oversees the escrow account -- wrote in a statement to ABC News that they had established the account "because pipeline projects in other parts of the country have sometimes resulted in added burdens to law enforcement and social service agencies."</p> <p>"The Commission appointed an independent Escrow Account Manager to evaluate all reimbursement requests and approve those requests that comply with the terms of the permit," PUC spokesperson Will Seuffert wrote.</p>



Enbridge has deposited at least \$4.25 million into the account, according to the PUC's general counsel, Ryan Barlow.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, director of the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund and an attorney representing pipeline opponents, told ABC News that the arrangement with Enbridge is an "extraordinary set-up where the corporation is paying limitless funds into an account shared by multiple sheriff's departments across the state."

"This creates a new structure that fundamentally will distort any pretense of public policing in America and will be very dangerous to fundamental democratic principles," she said.

Records show that at times during the Line 3 project, law enforcement billed the escrow account specifically for officers' time related to surveillance of pipeline opposition groups. One police department had wages reimbursed for an officer maintaining "mobile surveillance on multiple believed rally participants" in March, after he followed several cars believed to be occupied by pipeline opponents. The reimbursement requests also include references to "stationary patrols" near known pipeline opposition camps that were "observed" and "monitored."

One county sheriff's reimbursement request states their deputies' duties were to "protect the construction workers and equipment." Numerous requests describe the officers' duties as providing "pipeline security" or "drill site security."

Some police supervisors also met with Enbridge officials "to discuss project work areas, safety concerns, calls for service, intelligence gathering and public safety initiatives for the day," according to multiple reimbursement requests.

Enbridge also designed and conducted numerous training exercises with local law enforcement, according to [documents](#) first obtained by [The Intercept](#). The documents also show that public officials shared intelligence with Enbridge, such as a [list](#) of attendees at a pipeline opposition meeting.

Multiple law enforcement agencies who were paid from the escrow account, as well as the Northern Lights Task Force, an umbrella organization of law enforcement agencies along the pipeline route, declined to be interviewed for this story and did not respond to requests for comment.

However, National Association of Police Organizations Executive Director Bill Johnson told ABC News that the arrangement with Enbridge is not alarming.

"This is in an effort to address realistic safety concerns that arise from the type/location/size of the business/event," Johnson said. "Employers typically make payment not directly to the individual officers working the event, but to the governmental or other agency responsible for assigning/providing the officers."

Among the group of nearly 70 local law enforcement and public safety agencies, the Cass County Sheriff's Office received the most money from the escrow account: more than \$900,000 as of Oct. 1. The sum accounts for more than 13% of their budget for 2020. Most of the money was for deputies' wages, including overtime, incurred during "proactive patrols" of the pipeline route. The reimbursement requests also note that the sheriff's "quick response to resolve issues has been successful in keeping the project moving" and that Enbridge employees "have been extremely appreciative of our efforts."

One Cass County Sheriff's Office request includes reimbursement for a three-night stay at a \$727-per-night "beach resort" for two "extra deputies" -- in a [suite](#) that accommodates 12 people and has three bedrooms and three bathrooms.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office declined to be interviewed for this report and did not respond to a request for comment. A spokesperson for the Public Utilities Commission wrote that "accommodations

reserved were based on available supply in the areas, with more expensive lodging being needed where there was a shortage of available lodging."

"Those relationships should be deeply concerning for any person ... regardless of where you sit on a pipeline issue," Tara Houska told ABC News. "There should be a separation between private interests and the state."

On July 29, Houska and members of her pipeline opposition group attempted to enter an active drilling site and were met by officers from multiple law enforcement agencies. A police report included in an escrow account reimbursement noted that flashbangs and other nonlethal munitions were deployed against the group as they attempted to enter the site and halt the pipeline from being drilled under the Red River.

Houska recalled "being shot at with rubber bullets and mace at point-blank range. People's heads were bleeding." She said she was struck multiple times by rubber bullets that produced scars that remain to this day.

"It was a nightmare, you know, to see that, to see police officers protecting this giant sci-fi drill that's going underneath this river," Houska said.

Enbridge paid for the officers' wages, transportation, and meals to protect the drill site that day -- and many others. Law enforcement did not request reimbursement for the munitions they fired, but Enbridge did pick up the tab for the officers' meals, which included chicken wings, burgers, and nachos, according to receipts.

The Wright County Sheriff's office, whose deputies were among the law enforcement present that day and wrote an accompanying incident report, did not respond to a request for comment.

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## Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	11/02 Yahoo pulls out of China for good
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/tech/yahoo-china-exit/index.html">https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/tech/yahoo-china-exit/index.html</a>
GIST	<p><b>New York (CNN Business)</b> <a href="#">Yahoo</a> has shut down access to its services in China, becoming the latest American tech company to <a href="#">exit the country</a>.</p> <p>It pulled the plug "in recognition of the increasingly challenging business and legal environment," a Yahoo spokesperson said in a statement.</p> <p>"Yahoo remains committed to the rights of our users and a free and open internet. We thank our users for their support."</p> <p>Access to many of Yahoo's features in China have disappeared since 2013, including email and news. In 2015, Yahoo closed its Beijing office and eliminated roughly 300 jobs.</p> <p>Yahoo, which was <a href="#">recently bought by Apollo Global Management</a>, joins Microsoft's (<a href="#">MSFT</a>) LinkedIn social network, which <a href="#">announced last month</a> that it would leave China because of a "significantly more challenging operating environment and greater compliance requirements in China."</p> <p>Operating in China has long posed numerous challenges for private companies, but Chinese President Xi Jinping has orchestrated a sweeping regulatory crackdown on the tech, education, gaming and entertainment industries in recent months that has wiped a huge amount of <a href="#">market value</a> off China's biggest firms.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/02 Crooks flog access to shipping, logistics
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.zdnet.com/article/cybercriminals-flog-access-to-international-shipping-logistics-giants-in-the-underground/">https://www.zdnet.com/article/cybercriminals-flog-access-to-international-shipping-logistics-giants-in-the-underground/</a>
GIST	<p>Cybercriminals are offering initial access for networks belonging to key players in global supply chains, researchers warn.</p> <p>On Tuesday, Intel 471 published <a href="#">an analysis</a> of current black market trends online, revealing instances of <a href="#">initial access brokers</a> (IABs) offering access to international shipping and logistics companies across the ground, air, and sea.</p> <p>Global supply chains have faced serious upheaval since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The problems go beyond <a href="#">chip shortages</a> -- lockdowns and closures have caused backlogs worldwide, and as we slowly emerge from the pandemic, demand for everything from food to electronics remains high.</p> <p>This may be why organizations that provide the backbone of cargo transport and good deliveries have <a href="#">captured the interest</a> of cybercriminals including ransomware operators.</p> <p>Access is normally obtained through vulnerabilities in Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP), virtual private networks (VPN), Citrix, SonicWall, misconfigurations, and brute-force attacks, as well as credential theft.</p> <p>While already in a volatile and <a href="#">precarious position</a> -- especially as we head into winter -- "a cybersecurity crisis at one of these logistics and shipping companies could have a calamitous impact on the global consumer economy," according to the researchers.</p> <p>With this in mind, Intel 471 examined Dark Web listings over the past few months to see how prevalent IAB listings relating to the global supply chain are.</p> <p>There are several cases of note from both well-known IABs and newcomers. In July, two traders claimed to have secured access to a Japanese shipping firm's networks, alongside working, stolen account credentials. This offer was included in a wider dump of roughly 50 organizations.</p> <p>In August, a trader and associate of the Conti <a href="#">ransomware group</a> said they had infiltrated networks belonging to a US transport and trucking software supplier, as well as a commodity transport giant.</p> <p>According to the cybersecurity firm, this actor had previously given Conti access to a botnet including a virtual network computing (VNC) function, allowing them "to download and execute a Cobalt Strike beacon on infected machines, so group members in charge of breaching computer networks received access directly via a Cobalt Strike beacon session."</p> <p>A posting published in September by an IAB linked to the FiveHands ransomware group offered access to "hundreds" of companies, including a logistics company in the United Kingdom, whereas in other postings on cybercriminal forums, access to a shipping firm in Bangladesh -- secured through a PulseSecure VPN security flaw -- local admin rights in a US freight organization, and a pack of credentials including account access for a logistics company in Malaysia were also on offer.</p> <p>"The logistics industry is constantly targeted, and the ramifications of a cyberattack can have a crippling ripple effect on the global economy [...] It's extremely beneficial that security teams in the shipping industry monitor and track adversaries, their tools and malicious behavior to stop attacks from these criminals," the researchers say. "Proactively addressing vulnerabilities in times of high alert avoids further stress on already constrained business operations."</p>
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HEADLINE	11/01 BlackMatter group speeds up data theft
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/blackmatter-speeds-data-theft-tool/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/blackmatter-speeds-data-theft-tool/</a>

GIST	<p>Security researchers have discovered a new data exfiltration tool designed to accelerate information theft for ransomware groups using the BlackMatter variant.</p> <p>The Symantec Threat Hunter team explained in a <a href="#">new blog post</a> today that the custom tool is the third discovery of its kind, following the development of the Ryuk Stealer tool and the LockBit-linked StealBit.</p> <p>Dubbed “Exmatter,” it is designed to steal specific file types from selected directories and then upload them to a server under the control of BlackMatter attackers.</p> <p>This process of whittling down data sources to only those deemed most profitable or business-critical is designed to speed up the whole exfiltration process, presumably so the threat actors can complete their attack stages before being interrupted.</p> <p>After retrieving the drive names of all logical drives on a victim computer and collecting all file pathnames, Exmatter disregards anything under specific directories such as “C:\Documents and Settings.”</p> <p>It only exfiltrates specific file types such as PDFs, Word docs, spreadsheets and PowerPoints, and aims to prioritize those for exfiltration using LastWriteTime.</p> <p>Once exfiltration has been completed, Exmatter looks to overwrite and delete any traces of itself from the victim’s computer.</p> <p>Symantec said it found various versions of the tool, indicating that its developers have tried to refine its functionality to accelerate the process of data theft as far as possible.</p> <p>The researchers claimed BlackMatter itself is linked to the “Coreid” cybercrime group, which may have also been responsible for Darkside — the variant that led to the Colonial Pipeline outage.</p> <p>However, it’s unclear whether Exmatter was developed by this group or one of the many affiliates who use BlackMatter in attacks.</p> <p>“Like most ransomware actors, attacks linked to Coreid steal victims’ data and the group then threatens to publish it to further pressure victims into paying the ransom demand,” Symantec concluded.</p> <p>“Whether Exmatter is the creation of Coreid itself or one of its affiliates remains to be seen, but its development suggests that data theft and extortion continues to be a core focus of the group.”</p> <p>The US authorities <a href="#">issued an alert on BlackMatter</a> in mid-October, after it began to target critical infrastructure providers. <a href="#">One vendor claims</a> it may still help victims of the ransomware variant after finding a bug in its code.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/01 Calif. health network data breach
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/california-health-network-reports/">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/california-health-network-reports/</a>
GIST	<p>Cyber-criminals may have accessed the protected health information (PHI) of hundreds of thousands of patients of a network of community health centers based in California.</p> <p>Nonprofit Community Medical Centers (<a href="#">CMC</a>), which is headquartered in the city of Stockton, primarily serves low-income patients, migrants, and homeless people in the Northern California counties of San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo.</p> <p>In a statement issued on October 15, CMC said that "some unusual network activity" had been detected "early on Sunday, October 10."</p>

As a precaution, the agency shut down its entire network, including its servers, computers, and some phone lines that patients had been using to access their medical records, make appointments, and receive information relating to COVID-19.

"We know how hard this is on our patients," [said](#) Preethi Raghu, chief operating officer at Community Medical Centers. "We are doing everything in our power to continue patient care and restore our systems."

CMC launched an investigation into the unusual network activity with the help of third-party experts in cybersecurity. An examination of the digital forensic evidence determined that unauthorized individuals had gained access to parts of its network in which patients' protected health information was stored.

Data that may have been obtained by the hackers includes medical information, first and last names, mailing addresses, dates of birth, demographic information and Social Security numbers.

A breach [report](#) filed with the Maine attorney general states that the protected health information of [656,047](#) individuals was potentially compromised in the incident, 8 of whom are Maine residents.

"Please understand that this situation is fluid, and we will continue to work with law enforcement and cybersecurity experts to assess the full scope and nature of the incident, as well as to fix the situation," said CMC in a [statement](#) that was updated on October 27.

CMC did not say whether their investigation had discovered evidence of a ransomware attack.

Individuals affected by the security breach are being offered complimentary identity theft protection, identity theft resolution, and credit monitoring services.

"We continue to make progress on restoring all systems safely and returning to normal operations," said CMC.

"We have also taken steps to improve our network security to further secure sensitive data and prevent any misuse of patient information."

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HEADLINE	11/01 FBI: HelloKitty adds DDoS to extortion
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/fbi-hellokitty-ransomware-adds-ddos-attacks-to-extortion-tactics/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/fbi-hellokitty-ransomware-adds-ddos-attacks-to-extortion-tactics/</a>
GIST	<p>The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has sent out a flash alert warning private industry partners that the HelloKitty ransomware gang (aka FiveHands) has added distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks to their arsenal of extortion tactics.</p> <p>In a Friday notification coordinated with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the FBI said that the ransomware group would take their victims' official websites down in DDoS attacks if they didn't comply with the ransom demands.</p> <p>HelloKitty is also known for stealing sensitive documents from victims' compromised servers before encrypting them. The exfiltrated files are later used as leverage to pressure the victims into paying the ransom under the threat of leaking the stolen data online on a data leak site.</p> <p>"In some cases, if the victim does not respond quickly or does not pay the ransom, the threat actors will launch a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on the victim company's public facing website," the FBI <a href="#">said</a>.</p>

"Hello Kitty/FiveHands actors demand varying ransom payments in Bitcoin (BTC) that appear tailored to each victim, commensurate with their assessed ability to pay it. If no ransom is paid, the threat actors will post victim data to the Babuk site payload.bin) or sell it to a third-party data broker."

The group's ransomware operators will use several methods to breach the targets' networks, including compromised credentials and recently patched security flaws in SonicWall products (e.g., CVE-2021-20016, CVE-2021-20021, CVE-2021-20022, CVE-2021-2002).

### **Who is HelloKitty?**

[HelloKitty](#) is a human-operated ransomware operation active since [November 2020](#) and first observed by the FBI in January 2021.

The gang is mainly known for breaching and encrypting the systems of [CD Projekt Red](#) in February and claiming to have stolen Cyberpunk 2077, Witcher 3, Gwent, and other games' source code.

HelloKitty later claimed that someone had [purchased the files stolen from CD Projekt Red](#) although it was never confirmed.

Since at least July 2021, the ransomware gang was also [observed using a Linux variant that targets VMware's ESXi virtual machine platform](#).

They're just one of the multiple ransomware gangs targeting Linux servers after enterprise targets have migrated to using virtual machines for more efficient use of resources and easier device management.

By targeting their virtual machines, ransomware operators can now encrypt multiple servers simultaneously, with a single command, saving time and effort.

Based on submissions made by their victims on the ID Ransomware platform, HelloKitty significantly increased its activity in July and August, immediately after starting to use the Linux variant in attacks.

The HelloKitty ransomware or its variants have also been used under other names including DeathRansom and [Fivehands](#).

The FBI also shared an extensive collection of indicators of compromise (IOCs) in their alert to help cybersecurity professionals and system admins to guard against attack attempts coordinated by the HelloKitty ransomware gang.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 BlackShadow breach Israel firm; extortion</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/blackshadow-hackers-breach-israeli-hosting-firm-and-extort-customers/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/blackshadow-hackers-breach-israeli-hosting-firm-and-extort-customers/</a>
GIST	<p>The BlackShadow hacking group attacked the Israeli hosting provider Cyberserve to steal client databases and disrupt the company's services.</p> <p>Cyberserve is an Israeli web development firm and hosting company used by various organizations, including local radio stations, museums, and educational institutions.</p> <p><b>Attacking many victims at once</b></p> <p>Starting Friday, when attempting to access websites hosted at Cyberserve, visitors were met with website errors or messages that the site was inaccessible due to a cybersecurity incident.</p> <p>A hacking group known as BlackShadow claimed responsibility for the attack on Cyberserve and is extorting the hosting company and its customers by demanding \$1 million in cryptocurrency not to leak stolen data.</p>



The deadline for this extortion demand was set for 48 hours, starting on Saturday, but the actors almost immediately leaked a sample of 1,000 records to prove their point.

Included in the data theft is a database containing the personal information of a large LGBT site named 'Atraf,' which makes the security incident quite dire.

Exposing LGBT people who live in conservative societies puts them at significant risk, both physically and psychologically.

"Atraf's team did not contact us for any deal's yet so we collected 50 famous israeli that were surfing and we leak their video's," threatened the hacking group on Telegram.

At the time of writing this, many of the websites hosted at CyberServe are inaccessible, including Atraf, indicating that the company is still responding to the attack.

Other websites affected by this attack are:

- The Kavim (Dan Bus) public transportation firm.
- The Kan public broadcaster.
- The Pegasus travel agency.
- The Holon Children's Museum.

The National Cyber Directorate told [The Times of Israel](#) that they had warned CyberServe about an imminent cyber attack several times in the previous days.

It is unclear if Cyberserve ignored these warnings or could not find the security vulnerability used by the threat actors.

### **Politically motivated**

BlackShadow is an Iranian state-sponsored hacking group that has confirmed links to the [Pay2Key ransomware strain](#) that has been repeatedly deployed against Israeli targets.

However, unlike typical ransomware attacks, the threat actors behind BlackShadow are not believed to be financially motivated.

Omri Segev Moyal, co-founder & CEO of Israeli cybersecurity firm [Profero](#), told Bleeping Computer that attacks by these hacking groups are retaliatory and designed to disrupt Israeli interests.

*"The recent attacks from the so-called 'BlackShadow' are just another cycle of the clandestine Iran-Israeli war. It's a well-constructed InfoOp combined with very weak hacking skills to hurt Israel. We assume the current cycle is also in retaliation for the [attack against the gas pumps in Iran](#) last week." - Omri Segev Moyal.*

Last year, the group extorted the Israeli insurance company 'Shirbit,' demanding a payment of [\\$1 million in Bitcoin](#) and threatening to leak stolen data.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Canada province health system disrupted
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/canadian-province-health-care-system-disrupted-by-cyberattack/">https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/canadian-province-health-care-system-disrupted-by-cyberattack/</a>
GIST	<p>The Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador has suffered a cyberattack that has led to severe disruption to healthcare providers and hospitals.</p> <p>The attack took place on October 30th, causing regional health systems to shut down their networks and cancel thousands of medical appointments. This outage affected health systems in Central Health, Eastern Health, Western Health, and the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health authorities.</p>

The IT outage also affected communications in the region, with people reporting an inability to reach the health care centers or 911 via phone.

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Community Services announced that they had started an investigation into the systems outage with the help of the managed service provider, Bell Aliant.

### **Returning to pen and paper**

As emails are not working and doctors cannot register new patients or upload and access medical results on the database, many affected health centers have turned to using pen and paper.

Affected healthcare centers have also been forced to cancel or reschedule appointments for chemotherapy, x-ray scans, surgeries, and other specialist services.

While the IT outages are not the same for all hospitals in the province, almost all of them deal with [some form of disruption](#).

The only thing that continues to operate normally are vaccinations, emergency care, and the admission of cases that can't be rejected.

### **Likely a ransomware attack**

While the Canadian government or healthcare systems have not disclosed what type of cyberattack they have suffered, sources have told BleepingComputer that it is ransomware.

Health Minister John Haggie and Eastern Health CEO David Diamond spoke at a media conference earlier today, stating that the incident had a 'significant impact' and a 'damaged data center.'

If this turns out to be a ransomware attack, there is a good chance that data was stolen as well, including possible patient information.

As for when things will return to normal status, Haggie said it could be a couple of days before all systems are up and running again.

BleepingComputer has contacted the province's press contact with further questions but has not heard back at this time.

### **Canada in hackers' crosshairs**

Canada's public services have been a target for numerous ransomware attacks in the past.

In October 2020, Montreal's STM public transport system was [hit by RansomExx](#), and in December 2020, Vancouver's Metro operator TransLink faced severe IT problems following [an Eggegor attack](#).

A month later, TransLink concluded its investigation and confirmed that the Russian hackers had stolen customer details.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Cyber-incident: South Carolina SD
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberincident-at-south-carolina/?&amp;web_view=true">https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/cyberincident-at-south-carolina/?&amp;web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>A school district in South Carolina is investigating a "cyber-incident" that it says impacted hundreds of staff computers.</p> <p>On October 4, some of the networks of <a href="#">Colleton County School District</a> stopped operating. The unusual activity was <a href="#">detected</a> by the district's information technology staff, who determined that a cybersecurity incident had occurred.</p>

Speaking at the time of the security event, Colleton County School District coordinator of communications Sean Gruber said that because “communication remains intact for the community at large,” student instruction had not been interrupted.

“The district IT staff immediately began investigation and recovery measures and contacted a professional Incident Response and Recovery team to assist,” [said](#) Gruber.

The precise nature of the incident has not been made public, but the district has said that no physical security measures in place at Colleton County schools were affected and that district facilities remain secure.

On Wednesday, the Colleton County School Board voted unanimously at a [special meeting](#) to spend nearly \$200K on keeping three cybersecurity companies on the payroll to manage the district's recovery from the incident.

The board said that approximately 800 computers used by teaching and administrative staff were involved in the incident, and that the services of a network engineer and a forensics engineer were required to sanitize the machines.

Dell Support Services, Red Cloak, and Carbon Black will continue to be retained at a cost of \$190,520 to carry out approximately 480 hours of work to fix the issue.

The school board said that the recovery efforts will involve working with the district's Active Directory and "shoring up its firewall."

The vote took place on October 27, eight days after the school board sought [legal advice](#) on how to respond to the incident.

According to a report by Count on News 2, on October 27, the district was still working on "sanitization" efforts and the district networks had not yet returned to normal operations.

The school board has not added a notice about the cybersecurity incident to its website. The incident is being [reported](#) by Live 5 News as a cyber-attack.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Cybersecurity threat landscape: complex</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/11/02/cybersecurity-threat-landscape-growing/?web_view=true">https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2021/11/02/cybersecurity-threat-landscape-growing/?web_view=true</a>
GIST	<p>The 9th edition of the ENISA Threat Landscape (ETL) report released by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity highlights the surge in cybercriminality motivated by monetization using ransomware or cryptojacking. It covers a period of reporting starting from April 2020 up to July 2021.</p> <p>Cybersecurity threats are on the rise. <a href="#">Ransomware</a> ranks as a prime threat for the reporting period. For each of the identified threats, attack techniques, notable incidents and trends are identified alongside recommendations. The report also features a list of trends concerning threat actors.</p> <p>EU Agency for Cybersecurity Executive Director, Juhan Lepassaar stated that “Given the prominence of ransomware, having the right threat intelligence at hand will help the whole cybersecurity community to develop the techniques needed to best prevent and respond to such type of attacks. Such an approach can only rally around the necessity now emphasized by the European Council conclusions to reinforce the fight against cybercrime and ransomware more specifically.”</p> <p>The cybersecurity threat landscape is growing in terms of sophistication of attacks, complexity and impact. Such a trend is spurred by an ever-growing online presence, the transitioning of traditional infrastructures to online solutions, advanced interconnectivity and the exploitation of new features of emerging technologies.</p>

Without surprise, supply-chains attacks rank highly among prime threats because of the significant potential they have in inducing catastrophic cascading effects. The risk is such that ENISA recently produced a dedicated threat landscape report for this specific category of threat.

### **The 9 top threats**

9 threat groups were identified due to their prominent materialization over the reporting period.

- Ransomware
- Malware
- Cryptojacking
- E-mail related threats
- Threats against data
- Threats against availability and integrity
- Disinformation – misinformation
- Non-malicious threats
- Supply-chain attacks

### **Key trends**

The COVID-19 crisis has created possibilities for adversaries who used the pandemic as a dominant lure in campaigns for email attacks for instance. Monetization appears to be the main driver of such activities.

The techniques that threat actors are resorting to are numerous. The non-exhaustive list below presents some of the most prevalent ones identified in the report, across all threats:

- Ransomware as a Service ([RaaS](#))-type business models
- Multiple extortion ransomware schemes
- Business Email Compromise (BEC)
- Phishing-as-a-service (PhaaS)
- Disinformation-as-a-Service (DaaS) business model, etc.

### **Focus on three threats**

#### **Ransomware**

Ransomware is a type of malicious attack where attackers encrypt an organization's data and demand payment to restore access. Ransomware has been the prime threat during the reporting period, with several high profile and highly publicised incidents. The significance and impact of the threat of ransomware is also evidenced by a series of related policy initiatives in the European Union (EU) and worldwide.

Compromise through phishing e-mails and brute-forcing on Remote Desktop Protocol ([RDP](#)) services remain the two most common infection vectors. The occurrence of triple extortion schemes also increased strongly during 2021 and cryptocurrency remains the most common pay-out method for threat actors.

#### **Cryptojacking infections**

Cryptojacking or hidden cryptomining is a type of cybercrime where a criminal secretly uses a victim's computing power to generate cryptocurrency. With the proliferation of cryptocurrencies and their ever-increasing uptake by the wider public, an increase in corresponding cybersecurity incidents has been observed. Cryptocurrency remains the most common pay-out method for threat actors.

#### **Misinformation and disinformation**

This type of threats makes its first appearance in the ENISA threat landscape [report](#).

Disinformation and misinformation campaigns are on the rise as a result of the increased online presence due to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic logically leading to an overuse of social media platforms and online media.

Such threats are of paramount importance in the cyber world. [Disinformation](#) and misinformation campaigns are frequently used in hybrid attacks to foster doubt or create confusion, therefore reducing

the overall perception of trust as a consequence and damaging this major proponent of cybersecurity in the process.

#### **Threat actors: Who are they?**

Cyber threat actors are an integral component of the threat landscape. They are entities aiming to carry out a malicious act by taking advantage of existing vulnerabilities, with the intent to do harm to their victims. Understanding how threat actors think and act, what their motivations and goals are, is an important step towards a stronger cyber incident response.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Squid Game crypto collapses; scam fear
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/nov/01/squid-game-cryptocurrency-scam-fears-investors">https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/nov/01/squid-game-cryptocurrency-scam-fears-investors</a>
GIST	<p>The value of a cryptocurrency inspired by the popular Netflix series <a href="#">Squid Game</a> collapsed on Monday less than two weeks after investors could start buying tokens.</p> <p>After jumping more than 310,000% in value as of Sunday night, Squid lost all its value after Twitter <a href="#">flagged</a> the cryptocurrency's account and temporarily restricted it due to "suspicious activity".</p> <p>Right before its collapse, the token's value had spiked to \$2,856. The token's website and social accounts have disappeared, along with a white paper describing Squid.</p> <p>The token was made available for purchase on 20 October with the idea that the cryptocurrency would be a pay-to-play token to play an online game, inspired by Squid Game, the hit series in which heavily indebted people play deadly versions of children's games to win cash.</p> <p>The game was set to launch in November and its promoters said winners would be rewarded with more Squid tokens. But even as the cryptocurrency's price spiked in value last week, many noted that the token could be fraudulent.</p> <p>Investors were having trouble selling their tokens and the cryptocurrency's white paper was laden with grammatical errors, according to multiple reports.</p> <p>The creators of the cryptocurrency could have made off with as much as \$2.1m after the token's crash, according to <a href="#">Gizmodo</a>.</p> <p>CoinMarketCap, a cryptocurrency price-tracking website, <a href="#">warned</a> potential buyers before the crash of the cryptocurrency's possibly fraudulent nature, telling investors to "please do your own due diligence and exercise caution while trading" and warning them that investors were having trouble selling their tokens.</p> <p>An anonymous Squid investor <a href="#">told</a> CoinMarketCap, "I lost all of what I had in this project" after investing \$5,000 into the cryptocurrency.</p> <p>Experts have warned investors to be careful when considering purchasing "meme" cryptocurrencies based on cultural phenomena, even if it appears the currency is doing well on the market.</p> <p>"Remarkably, many such coins rapidly catch investors' fancy, leading to wildly inflated valuations," Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad told the <a href="#">BBC</a>. "Naïve retail investors who get caught up in such speculative frenzies face the risk of substantial losses."</p>
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HEADLINE	11/01 'Trojan source' bug threatens all code
SOURCE	<a href="https://krebsonsecurity.com/2021/11/trojan-source-bug-threatens-the-security-of-all-code/">https://krebsonsecurity.com/2021/11/trojan-source-bug-threatens-the-security-of-all-code/</a>
GIST	Virtually all compilers — programs that transform human-readable source code into computer-executable machine code — are vulnerable to an insidious attack in which an adversary can introduce targeted

vulnerabilities into any software without being detected, new research released today warns. The vulnerability disclosure was coordinated with multiple organizations, some of whom are now releasing updates to address the security weakness.

Researchers with the **University of Cambridge** discovered a bug that affects most computer code compilers and many software development environments. At issue is a component of the digital text encoding standard [Unicode](#), which allows computers to exchange information regardless of the language used. Unicode currently defines more than 143,000 characters across 154 different language scripts (in addition to many non-script character sets, such as emojis).

Specifically, the weakness involves Unicode's bi-directional or "[Bidi](#)" algorithm, which handles displaying text that includes mixed scripts with different display orders, such as Arabic — which is read right to left — and English (left to right).

But computer systems need to have a deterministic way of resolving conflicting directionality in text. Enter the "Bidi override," which can be used to make left-to-right text read right-to-left, and vice versa.

"In some scenarios, the default ordering set by the Bidi Algorithm may not be sufficient," the Cambridge researchers wrote. "For these cases, Bidi override control characters enable switching the display ordering of groups of characters."

Bidi overrides enable even single-script characters to be displayed in an order different from their logical encoding. As the researchers point out, this fact has previously been exploited [to disguise the file extensions of malware disseminated via email](#).

Here's the problem: Most programming languages let you put these Bidi overrides in comments and strings. This is bad because most programming languages allow comments within which all text — including [control characters](#) — is ignored by compilers and interpreters. Also, it's bad because most programming languages allow [string literals](#) that may contain arbitrary characters, including control characters.

"So you can use them in source code that appears innocuous to a human reviewer [that] can actually do something nasty," said **Ross Anderson**, a professor of computer security at Cambridge and co-author of the research. "That's bad news for projects like Linux and Webkit that accept contributions from random people, subject them to manual review, then incorporate them into critical code. This vulnerability is, as far as I know, the first one to affect almost everything."

The research paper, which dubbed the vulnerability "[Trojan Source](#)," notes that while both comments and strings will have syntax-specific semantics indicating their start and end, *these bounds are not respected by Bidi overrides*.

From the paper:

"Therefore, by placing Bidi override characters exclusively within comments and strings, we can smuggle them into source code in a manner that most compilers will accept. Our key insight is that we can reorder source code characters in such a way that the resulting display order also represents syntactically valid source code."

"Bringing all this together, we arrive at a novel supply-chain attack on source code. By injecting Unicode Bidi override characters into comments and strings, an adversary can produce syntactically-valid source code in most modern languages for which the display order of characters presents logic that diverges from the real logic. In effect, we anagram program A into program B."

Anderson said such an attack could be challenging for a human code reviewer to detect, as the rendered source code looks perfectly acceptable.



“If the change in logic is subtle enough to go undetected in subsequent testing, an adversary could introduce targeted vulnerabilities without being detected,” he said.

Equally concerning is that Bidi override characters *persist through the copy-and-paste functions on most modern browsers, editors, and operating systems.*

“Any developer who copies code from an untrusted source into a protected code base may inadvertently introduce an invisible vulnerability,” Anderson told KrebsOnSecurity. “Such code copying is a significant source of real-world security exploits.”

[Matthew Green](#), an associate professor at the **Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute**, said the Cambridge research clearly shows that most compilers can be tricked with Unicode into processing code in a different way than a reader would expect it to be processed.

“Before reading this paper, the idea that Unicode could be exploited in some way wouldn’t have surprised me,” Green told KrebsOnSecurity. “What does surprise me is how many compilers will happily parse Unicode without any defenses, and how effective their right-to-left encoding technique is at sneaking code into codebases. That’s a really clever trick I didn’t even know was possible. Yikes.”

Green said the good news is that the researchers conducted a widespread vulnerability scan, but were unable to find evidence that anyone was exploiting this. Yet.

“The bad news is that there were no defenses to it, and now that people know about it they might start exploiting it,” Green said. “Hopefully compiler and code editor developers will patch this quickly! But since some people don’t update their development tools regularly there will be some risk for a while at least.”

**Nicholas Weaver**, a lecturer at the computer science department at **University of California, Berkeley**, said the Cambridge research presents “a very simple, elegant set of attacks that could make supply chain attacks much, much worse.”

“It is already hard for humans to tell ‘this is OK’ from ‘this is evil’ in source code,” Weaver said. “With this attack, you can use the shift in directionality to change how things render with comments and strings so that, for example ‘This is okay’ is how it renders, but ‘This is’ okay is how it exists in the code. This fortunately has a very easy signature to scan for, so compilers can [detect] it if they encounter it in the future.”

The latter half of the Cambridge paper is a fascinating case study on the complexities of orchestrating vulnerability disclosure with so many affected programming languages and software firms. The researchers said they offered a 99-day embargo period following their initial disclosure to allow affected products to be repaired with software updates.

“We met a variety of responses ranging from patching commitments and bug bounties to quick dismissal and references to legal policies,” the researchers wrote. “Of the nineteen software suppliers with whom we engaged, seven used an outsourced platform for receiving vulnerability disclosures, six had dedicated web portals for vulnerability disclosures, four accepted disclosures via PGP-encrypted email, and two accepted disclosures only via non-PGP email. They all confirmed receipt of our disclosure, and ultimately nine of them committed to releasing a patch.”

Eleven of the recipients had bug bounty programs offering payment for vulnerability disclosures. But of these, only five paid bounties, with an average payment of \$2,246 and a range of \$4,475, the researchers reported.

Anderson said so far about half of the organizations maintaining the affected computer programming languages contacted have promised patches. Others are dragging their feet.

“We’ll monitor their deployment over the next few days,” Anderson said. “We also expect action from Github, Gitlab and Atlassian, so their tools should detect attacks on code in languages that still lack bidi character filtering.”

As for what needs to be done about Trojan Source, the researchers urge governments and firms that rely on critical software to identify their suppliers’ posture, exert pressure on them to implement adequate defenses, and ensure that any gaps are covered by controls elsewhere in their toolchain.

“The fact that the Trojan Source vulnerability affects almost all computer languages makes it a rare opportunity for a system-wide and ecologically valid cross-platform and cross-vendor comparison of responses,” the paper concludes. “As powerful supply-chain attacks can be launched easily using these techniques, it is essential for organizations that participate in a software supply chain to implement defenses.”

Weaver called the research “really good work at stopping something before it becomes a problem.”

“The coordinated disclosure lessons are an excellent study in what it takes to fix these problems,” he said. “The vulnerability is real but also highlights the even larger vulnerability of the shifting stand of dependencies and packages that our modern code relies on.”

Rust has released [a security advisory](#) for this security weakness, which is being tracked as CVE-2021-42574 and CVE-2021-42694. Additional security advisories from other affected languages will be added as updates here.

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*The Trojan Source research paper is available [here](#) (PDF).*

HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Ransomware strikes Toronto transit system</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cyberscoop.com/toronto-transit-commission-ann-arbor-theride-ransomware/">https://www.cyberscoop.com/toronto-transit-commission-ann-arbor-theride-ransomware/</a>
GIST	<p>A ransomware attack on Toronto’s transit agency knocked some systems offline over the weekend, an incident that occurred days after another hack disrupted a Michigan transportation agency.</p> <p>The Toronto Transit Commission said it first discovered the attack on Friday, after seeing <a href="#">“some unusual network activity”</a> the day before. The intrusion initially appeared to have little impact, but the damage escalated “when hackers broadened their strike on network servers,” according to <a href="#">a statement to Canadian media outlets</a>.</p> <p>Online services for communicating with vehicle operators, information platform screens, trip-planning apps, the commission’s website, an online booking portal and internal email messaging were among the affected systems.</p> <p>The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority — alternately known as TheRide — also said it was the victim of a security incident that disrupted its bus information systems. Neither the Toronto nor Ann Arbor attacks appeared to affect <a href="#">transportation</a> services significantly. There is no indication the hacks are related.</p> <p>“As soon as we became aware of the situation, our team immediately began taking action,” <a href="#">said Matt Carpenter, CEO of TheRide</a>. “We shut down many of our systems, including our real-time bus information and in-office assistance while we assessed the situation.”</p> <p>Cyberattacks on rail transport are a recent point of emphasis in the U.S. <a href="#">The Department of Homeland Security last month announced forthcoming requirements</a> that air and rail transporters would have to report hacks to the Transportation Security Administration, select a point person for discussing attacks with the government and develop a recovery plan.</p> <p>The Toronto and Ann Arbor disruptions are only the most recent intrusions affecting transit services. In July, hackers apparently tied to China <a href="#">hit New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority</a>, although they didn’t seem to have destructive or financial intent.</p>

	<p>Last last year, <a href="#">another Canadian transit agency suffered a ransomware attack</a>. In 2016, San Francisco's Muni system dealt with <a href="#">a \$70,000 demand from digital extortionists</a>.</p> <p>The Toronto Transit Commission did not immediately respond to calls and emails seeking an update Monday.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Officials monitoring elections; cyberthreats</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/cybersecurity-elections/2021/11/01/id/1042870/">https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/cybersecurity-elections/2021/11/01/id/1042870/</a>
GIST	<p>With elections being held in more than 30 states on Tuesday, including the highly watched Virginia governor's race, the federal agency in charge of cyber threats announced Monday it will be monitoring for any threats to election integrity.</p> <p>The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said in a press release that the agency will host an "election situational awareness room" on Tuesday to share real-time information and give support as needed.</p> <p>The agency will work with federal partners, state and local election officials, private sector election partners and political organizations, according to the press release.</p> <p>"While there is no specific, credible threat to election infrastructure, CISA stands ready to provide cyber incident response and expertise if needed," the press release stated. "CISA encourages voters to turn to state and local election officials as trusted sources of information."</p> <p>"CISA has supported state and local election officials to help secure their systems and push back against malicious actors seeking to disrupt our democratic process and interfere in our elections," Election Security Initiative Director Geoff Hale said CISA will again be running its "<a href="#">rumor control website</a>" to provide "accurate information about election processes to debunk potential mis-, dis-, and malinformation."</p> <p>CISA created the page before the 2020 election following allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential elections. It was a key factor in then-President Donald Trump's decision to fire former CISA Director Christopher Krebs after the election, <a href="#">The Hill</a> reported.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Facebook cancels Nicaragua govt. accounts</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/facebook-cancels-937-accounts-linked-nicaragua-government-80911787">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/facebook-cancels-937-accounts-linked-nicaragua-government-80911787</a>
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Meta Platforms, the company that runs <a href="#">Facebook</a>, said Monday it has canceled 937 accounts linked to the government of Nicaragua and the Sandinista party of President Daniel Ortega.</p> <p>Meta said it also removed 140 deceptive pages, 24 groups and 363 Instagram accounts for violating the company's policy against "coordinated inauthentic behavior on behalf of a foreign or government entity."</p> <p>Meta said it was a classic example of a "troll farm," which it defined as attempts "to corrupt or manipulate public discourse by using fake accounts to ... mislead people about who's behind them."</p> <p>The firm said the network of accounts was launched after mass protests against the government in 2018. The accounts sought both to denigrate members of the opposition, and praise the government. Some of the accounts purported to be students from a Nicaraguan university that was an epicenter of the protests.</p> <p>Nicaragua is set to hold <a href="#">elections</a> on Nov. 7 in which Ortega is seeking a fourth consecutive term. But those elections have been rendered almost moot by the government's arrests of critics and seven potential challengers.</p>

Starting in May, Ortega began arresting almost any public figure who publicly disagreed with him, including people who fought alongside him in the country's 1979 revolution. Families of 155 political prisoners said in a statement that their loved ones have been subjected to "mistreatment and torture" in prison.

The country's main opposition coalitions have said that Ortega's moves have "ended any vestige of real electoral competition."

About 140,000 Nicaraguans have fled their homeland since the government cracked down on widespread protests starting in 2018.

Meta said the troll farm removed in October was operated from the offices of the postal service, noting "additional smaller clusters of fake accounts were run from other government offices, including the Supreme Court and the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute."

"This campaign was cross-platform as well as cross-government," the company said. "It ran a complex network of media brands across Facebook, Tiktok, Instagram, Twitter, [YouTube](#), Blogspot and Telegram, as well as websites tied to these news entities. They posted positive content about the government and negative commentary about the opposition, using hundreds of fake accounts to promote these posts."

Ortega claims the protests that erupted in April 2018 were an attempted coup with foreign backing. And he has feuded with Roman Catholic bishops who participated as mediators then in the short-lived first round of dialogue between the government and opposition, after which the government harshly put down the protests.

At least 325 people died during clashes that year between civilians and government forces in Nicaragua, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

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## Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	11/02 Pakistan: bomb targeted security forces
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/pakistan-429a39aba9fa0404b2eeee071b84174d">https://apnews.com/article/pakistan-429a39aba9fa0404b2eeee071b84174d</a>
GIST	<p>QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — A roadside bomb injured 13 people Tuesday when it exploded near a vehicle carrying security forces in a bazaar in southwest Pakistan, police said.</p> <p>The attack happened in the district of Kharan in the Baluchistan province, according to local police official Din Mohammad Hassani. Most of those injured are civilians.</p> <p>He provided no further details and only said they transported the wounded persons to a hospital.</p> <p>No one immediately claimed for the attack. In the past, similar assaults have been blamed on separatists and militant groups. Baluchistan is the scene of a long-running insurgency by Baluch secessionist groups that for decades have staged attacks mainly on security forces to press their demands for independence.</p> <p>Pakistan insists it has quelled the insurgency, despite the ongoing violence.</p> <p>Kharan is located 350 kilometers (210 miles) southwest of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan.</p>
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HEADLINE	11/01 Ohio man pleads guilty to terror charge
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SOURCE	<a href="https://dayton247now.com/news/local/beavercreek-man-pleads-guilty-to-attempting-to-join-foreign-terrorist-group">https://dayton247now.com/news/local/beavercreek-man-pleads-guilty-to-attempting-to-join-foreign-terrorist-group</a>
GIST	<p>BEAVERCREEK, Ohio (WKEF) -- A Beavercreek man has pleaded guilty to attempting to join a terrorist group.</p> <p>Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio Vipal J. Patel said today that Naser Almadaoji, 22, an Iraqi-born US citizen, had been arrested by the FBI in 2018 while trying to fly out of John Glenn International Airport to travel to Afghanistan to reportedly join ISIS Wilayat Khorasan (ISIS-K).</p> <p>He pleaded guilty Friday in federal court to one count of attempting to provide material support – himself, as personnel – to foreign terrorist organizations. A jury trial had been scheduled to begin today.</p> <p>“This is now the second person from the Dayton area held accountable in recent times for trying to join ISIS,” Patel said. “Whatever grievances might exist with our government, our country, or our way of life, violence is not the answer. Providing material support in whatever form – personnel, services, funding, or otherwise – to designated foreign terrorist groups simply begets more terror, and every effort will be made to hold accountable those who provide such support.”</p> <p>Patel said Almadaoji intended to travel to Astana, Kazakhstan, where he planned to be smuggled into Afghanistan to support ISIS.</p> <p>Almadaoji reportedly explained to an individual whom he believed to be an ISIS supporter that he wanted “weapons experts training, planning and executing, hit and run, capturing high value targets, ways to break into homes and avoid security guards. That type of training.” He apparently began making travel plans in September 2018.</p> <p>Almadaoji had traveled to Egypt in February 2018 to try to join an ISIS affiliate there. Patel said he was unsuccessful in that attempt.</p> <p>Patel said that attempting to provide material support and resources to a foreign terrorist organization is a federal crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison.</p> <p>“This case is another example of how the agents and officers of the Joint Terrorism Task Force continue to work each day to protect the community and disrupt those intent on aiding and supporting terrorist groups,” stated FBI Cincinnati Special Agent in Charge J. William Rivers. “The task force brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to expertly investigate developing threats and those who may be focused on violence.”</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Ex-Army vet jailed 25yrs in bomb plot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://ktar.com/story/4749099/ex-army-vet-sentenced-for-southern-california-bomb-plot/">https://ktar.com/story/4749099/ex-army-vet-sentenced-for-southern-california-bomb-plot/</a>
GIST	<p>An Army veteran who plotted to bomb a white supremacist rally in Southern California was sentenced Monday to 25 years in federal prison.</p> <p>Mark Steven Domingo, 28, of Reseda in Los Angeles, was convicted in August of providing material support to terrorism and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, the U.S. attorney’s office said.</p> <p>Domingo schemed to bomb a planned April 2019 rally in Long Beach before he was arrested, prosecutors said.</p> <p>Domingo, a former combat infantryman, had recently converted to Islam and over several months discussed several plots to kill scores of people in Southern California in revenge for the March 2019 attacks on two New Zealand mosques that left 50 people dead, prosecutors said.</p>

In online posts and an online forum, Domingo expressed “a desire to seek violent retribution for attacks against Muslims, as well as a willingness to become a martyr,” the U.S. attorney’s office said in a statement.

Domingo considered attacks against Jewish people, churches and police officers before deciding to bomb the white supremacist rally, authorities said.

Domingo posted one online message saying “America needs another Vegas event,” an apparent reference to the October 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people, documents show. He said it would spark civil unrest to weaken “America by giving them a taste of the terror they gladly spread all over the world.”

The terror plot was foiled by the FBI and police using an undercover officer and informant Domingo thought were his accomplices.

“This defendant planned a mass-casualty terrorist attack and repeatedly admitted at trial that he had a desire to kill as many people as possible,” acting United States Attorney Tracy L. Wilkison said. “Had this bombing been successful, many innocent people would have been murdered, yet this defendant has shown no remorse for his conduct, nor has he renounced the extremist ideology that motivated his horrific plot.”

Domingo “represents the very real threat posed by homegrown violent extremists in the United States,” said Kristi K. Johnson, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office.

Military records show Domingo served about 16 months in the Army, including a four-month stint in Afghanistan in fall 2012. A U.S. official told The Associated Press in 2019 that Domingo was demoted and discharged before completing his enlistment contract for committing an unspecified serious offense.

He left with a rank of private, the lowest possible grade.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Violent extremists sentenced to 9yrs</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2021/11/02/delaware-men-sentenced-federal-prison-white-supremacy/6199276001/">https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2021/11/02/delaware-men-sentenced-federal-prison-white-supremacy/6199276001/</a>
GIST	<p>Two Delaware men associated with a violent extremist group called The Base were sentenced on Friday to nine years each in federal prison on charges including illegally transporting firearms and harboring illegal aliens with an intent to ignite civil war, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Delaware and Maryland.</p> <p>Brian Mark Lemley, Jr. of Newark, and Canadian national Patrick Jordan Mathews, recently of Newark, pleaded guilty to charges in both Delaware and Maryland, including obstruction of justice, for destroying cellphones when FBI agents raided their Delaware apartment in January of last year.</p> <p>Federal prosecutors in Maryland recommended a 25-year prison sentence for Lemley and Mathews at a court hearing earlier this month, calling them “domestic terrorists” who prepared for a civil war, talked about assassinating a Virginia lawmaker, and discussed how to break racially fueled mass shooter Dylann Roof out of death row.</p> <p>Mathews pleaded guilty to four counts that carried a combined total of 50 years in prison and Lemley pleaded guilty to seven counts punishable by a maximum of 70 years.</p> <p>A third co-defendant and member of The Base, 21-year-old William Garfield Bilbrough IV, of Denton, Maryland, pleaded guilty in December for helping Mathews illegally enter the U.S. from Canada in 2019. He was sentenced to five years in federal prison.</p>



Audio and video evidence obtained from their Delaware residence during the FBI raid on Jan. 16, 2020, revealed that the three men had begun preparing for violence weeks before a scheduled gun rights rally in Richmond, Virginia, on Jan. 20, 2020.

They were captured, according to prosecutors, talking about a pro-firearms rally in Virginia, where they and other like-minded confederates would begin systematically murdering and destroying rail lines and power lines in order to bring the capitulation and demise of the U.S. government, initiating the Boogaloo – a term that far-right extremists use as a code word for a second civil war.

On Jan. 7, 2020, according to court documents, the defendants told an undercover FBI employee about what was happening in Virginia, and that they “expected 60,000 militia to show up in the capitol” on Jan. 20, 2020 and were “rolling for chaos,” Lemley told the FBI employee.

“It’s just that we can’t live with ourselves if we don’t get somebody’s blood on our hand,” he said, according to court documents.

During the raid, agents found several videos of Mathews espousing violent, anti-Semitic, and racist language. Many of the videos discussed killing people in furtherance of “the movement,” according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware and Maryland.

Members of The Base have been a leading proponent of "accelerationism," a fringe philosophy that advocates using mass violence to hasten society's collapse.

Since 2018, the group has built a coalition of white supremacist members within the U.S. and abroad through online chat rooms, in-person meetings, propaganda, and military-style training, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware and Maryland.

The Base’s accounts on social media repeatedly posted content promoting terrorism, lone-wolf attacks, and a white ethnostate.

"I daydream about killing so much that I frequently walk in the wrong (sic) directions for extended periods of time at work," Lemley wrote during a chat with other Base members in 2019, prosecutors said.

In encrypted chat rooms, members of the neo-Nazi group discussed their military-style training camps and attacking minority communities, including Black and Jewish people, according to prosecutors.

“Lemley, Mathews and others in The Base were assembling firearms and collecting thousands of rounds of ammunition with the intent to commit violence in furtherance of white nationalism and the downfall of the American state” said Erik L. Barron, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland.

The case against the three men charged in Maryland was part of a broader investigation into The Base. In January 2020, authorities in Georgia and Wisconsin had arrested four other men linked to the group.

Mathews, Bilbrough and Lemley were also arrested in April 2021, where according to their plea agreements, they had gone to a regional training camp conducted by Base members in Georgia. They were charged with livestock theft and aggravated animal cruelty which the authorities described as a "ritual sacrifice".

As per Friday's sentencing, Lemley and Mathew's nine-year jail time will be followed by a three-year period of supervised release for firearms and alien-related charges as per federal guidelines.

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HEADLINE	11/01 Pentagon removes Afghan war photos
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/afghanistan-war-photos-deleted-defense-department/">https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/1/afghanistan-war-photos-deleted-defense-department/</a>

GIST	<p>The Pentagon removed thousands of Afghan War-related photographs and videos from a Department of Defense website over concerns they could expose Afghans who face possible reprisals because they worked with U.S. troops.</p> <p>The images and videos, some dating back several years, had been published on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service, known as DVIDS. The material is in the public domain and available to the media and public.</p> <p>On Monday, chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said he made the decision to pull down any videos or photographs that could be used by Afghanistan's new Taliban leadership to target citizens who had assisted the U.S. and allied effort in the country over the past two decades.</p> <p>"I wanted it to be unpublished for a temporary period of time and it is temporary," Mr. Kirby told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday. "It was done out of an abundance of caution."</p> <p>About 120,000 photographs and 17,000 videos were taken off the website if they showed faces or any other identifying information of the Afghans. Although Taliban fighters have targeted members of the former government and family members of those who worked for the U.S. government, Mr. Kirby said the decision to remove the images and videos was not prompted by any particular security threat.</p> <p>"Nothing has been deleted from the record. It is simply being archived until we believe it's the appropriate time to put [it] back up," Mr. Kirby said.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Taliban: blast hit civilians outside hospital</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-business-kabul-taliban-5575b39e22a6c0294327760a09343c3e">https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-business-kabul-taliban-5575b39e22a6c0294327760a09343c3e</a>
GIST	<p>KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An explosion rocked Afghanistan's capital Tuesday apparently targeting civilians in front of a military hospital, a Taliban spokesman said.</p> <p>Taliban deputy spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press that the explosion in Kabul targeted civilians outside Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan military hospital.</p> <p>He said that still there is no information on casualties and he did not confirm a second explosion on the site.</p> <p>Sounds of two explosions could be heard in the 10th district of Kabul. Area residents said they also heard the sound of gunfire.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Becoming domestic terrorist: 3 in lethal plot</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/domestic-terrorist-styled-patriots-led-lethal-plot/story?id=80303614">https://abcnews.go.com/US/domestic-terrorist-styled-patriots-led-lethal-plot/story?id=80303614</a>
GIST	<p>This is part 3 of a three-part ABC News series looking at one chilling case of right-wing extremism in America's heartland. Part 1 is available <a href="#">here</a>, and part 2 is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>In the final weeks of the 2016 presidential campaign, <a href="#">four militia men in Kansas were finalizing their own campaign</a>: a plot to bomb the mosque and homes of Muslim <a href="#">refugees</a> in the small town of Garden City, Kansas.</p> <p><i>"I'm a domestic terrorist on a f---ing federal government list right now,"</i> the plot's ringleader, Patrick Stein, was recorded saying before the FBI made arrests in October 2016.</p> <p>It was an attack authorities said could have eclipsed the Oklahoma City bombing.</p> <p>But one of the men, Dan Day, was actually an FBI informant, who over several months secretly recorded hundreds of hours with the small militia and derailed their deadly plot.</p>

In a series of exclusive interviews with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, Day and his family described what they endured for months as Day worked for the FBI. His story is told in the new [ABC News documentary, "The Informant: Fear and Faith in the Heartland," now available on Hulu](#).

#### The Informant

Homegrown extremist groups remain one of the greatest threats to the U.S., join George Stephanopoulos for a never-before-seen look at the takedown of a terrorist attack.

For many in Kansas, one of the most confounding parts of the case is how three of their own -- Patrick Stein, Curtis Allen and Gavin Wright -- became so gripped by hate that they wanted to kill innocent men, women and children.

"I don't know where [they] got the hate from," Day, a Garden City native, told ABC News in a series of exclusive interviews.

Ifrah Ahmed, who as a child fled Somalia's civil war and then waited in a refugee camp for 17 years before coming to Garden City, said the men's level of hatred for total strangers is "beyond anything that my brain can comprehend."

*"There's only one good kind of Muslim, and that's a dead motherf---er, straight up,"* Stein claimed during a recorded conversation in 2016. *"A little g----mn 1-year-old, that little f---er, he's gotta go."*

"When I hear the [recordings] it's like, 'How can somebody be that?'" Ahmed said.

ABC News recently obtained a cache of those recordings. They shed new light on a key question still baffling U.S. counterterrorism officials: Where does that type of violent hatred come from?

"It spreads like wildfire," Day said.

Hate crimes in the United States have reached [their highest level](#) in more than a decade, and the FBI is currently conducting [more than 2,700 domestic terrorism investigations](#) around the country, according to FBI statistics.

The recordings from the Garden City case show how a farmer and two mobile-home salesmen turned into domestic terrorists. Coupled with court documents and interviews, they reveal years-long paths toward prejudice, stoked by rabble-rousing media personalities, right-wing conspiracy theories, internal struggles and irrational fears.

'A game changer for me'

Stein, Allen and Wright were radicalized to violence at a time when ISIS was launching attacks around the world and inspiring scores of Americans to either join the group in Syria or attempt their own attacks at home. The U.S. government [expressed confidence](#) in vetting thousands of Syrian refugees coming to the United States, but [acknowledged gaps](#) in its capabilities.

Wright, now 56, eventually came to "hate the government," the Obama administration in particular, for "allowing Muslims" and "possible terrorist threats" into the U.S. homeland, according to notes of a post-arrest interview with him.

*"They couldn't get here if it wasn't for our government,"* Wright said on one of the recordings Day produced.

The birth of Allen's bigotry was much earlier.

As a member of the Kansas National Guard in the mid-2000s, he was deployed twice to Iraq, where he grew “angry over the enemy’s use of IEDs to wound and kill American personnel,” according to court records filed in the case by his attorney.

Then, after returning home, Allen heard rumors that Muslim doctors at the Department of Veterans Affairs were pushing patients to take copies of the Koran.

At the same time, he was lonely and depressed, and for years he battled with the department to award him benefits for war-induced post-traumatic stress disorder. By 2011, he became “disappointed” in his military experience and “very skeptical of the federal government,” his attorney said in court.

*“We’re going to try to trigger the other like-minded people across the nation to stand up and start [going after] Muslims and government,”* Allen, now 54, said during a conversation Day recorded in August 2016.

As for Stein, now 52, he never endured a war zone, but he was always a troubled, vulnerable man.

When Stein was a toddler, his mother was an alcoholic, and he became a drug addict and alcoholic himself before high school, according to his attorney Jim Pratt. By his early 30s, he was divorced twice and estranged from two sons.

As a truck driver who returned home to work his family’s Kansas farm, Stein never paid much attention to politics.

But then on Sept. 11, 2001, 19 foreign terrorists infiltrated the United States and turned commercial planes into unthinkable weapons, killing nearly 3,000 Americans.

“9/11 was a game changer for me,” he said in a jailhouse interview with [New York magazine](#) after his arrest. “And that’s what really started my delving into more of the political world.”

‘A call to arms’

For years, Stein “immersed” himself in “right-wing news and ideology,” reading alarming online stories about Muslims, watching YouTube videos purporting to reveal the truth about Islam, and listening to far-right radio hosts like conspiracists Alex Jones, Pratt said in court documents.

Allen and Wright also closely followed Jones.

*“Everybody that listens to him is a patriot,”* Wright said on one of Day’s recordings. *“He’s done so much investigating.”*

Jones was the one who in 2012 infamously touted the conspiracy theory that the massacre at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, was a government “hoax” designed to undercut the Second Amendment. He’s since [lost several lawsuits](#) stemming from the false claim.

In 2015, Jones and guests he invited on his show broadcasted an array of anti-Muslim and anti-government screeds. Allen believed Jones was telling listeners to take action.

*“He’s gone on his radio show, his TV shows that I was watching – he’s gone on there and said, ‘Dude, this is a call to arms,’ ”* Allen claimed on one of Day’s recordings. *“He’s saying, ‘Militia, get off your a--es.’ ”*

Meanwhile, in summer 2015, militias and others in southwest Kansas were becoming increasingly nasty toward the large community of Somali refugees in the area.

Day recalled that one Facebook post in particular “went viral,” spreading bogus rumors that Somalis were trying to recruit for ISIS at the local library in Garden City.

On one of Day's recordings, Stein said Somali refugees fleeing civil war in East Africa, and Syrian refugees fleeing ISIS on a different continent thousands of miles away, were "one and the same."

Pratt, Stein's attorney, later said that after Stein's arrest, the two of them "talked a lot" about "conservative media pushing these three to a point where they could be convinced" that carrying out an attack on refugees "was the right thing to do."

Trump 'normalized' the fear?

Pratt also claimed in and outside of court that the misguided fear of Muslims festering inside Stein was "normalized" by then presidential candidate [Donald Trump's rhetoric](#) during his run for the White House in 2016.

"Donald Trump continually stated that these refugees were coming in unvetted, they were dangerous, they didn't know what was going on," Pratt said during a recent online forum about the case.

Stein's sister told a [documentary filmmaker](#) last year that Trump's "words and his message spoke to" Stein and other people "who were already afraid."

Allen's attorney similarly claimed that the "political climate" surrounding the 2016 presidential campaign "intensified" and "exacerbated" her client's "beliefs and opinions."

For several months in summer 2016, Allen, Stein and Wright pieced together their domestic terrorist plot. Day was with them, and recording, as they negotiated targets to strike in Garden City, gathered bomb-making materials, and drafted a manifesto.

"[Day] was the one thing that stood between those three guys and a smoking hole filled with dead people," said former federal prosecutor Tony Mattivi, who oversaw the case.

Their bombing was scheduled for Nov. 9, 2016, the day after the presidential election, because an earlier attack "would give a lot of ammunition to the Hillary [Clinton] supporters," Stein was captured saying in one of Day's recordings.

'Fomented and inflamed'?

As the defense attorneys see it, what ultimately pushed Stein, Wright and Allen over the edge was the FBI and Day himself.

The men's words were "horrible, racist, and Islamophobic," but "rather than try and calm these fears," the FBI "fomented them and inflamed them through Dan Day," Pratt told a federal jury during trial.

*"We did surveillance [of Somalis] ... and it looks like they're coming out with big bags of something," Day told the men during a recruitment meeting in June 2016. "It was either like cash, drugs, [or] something. They got something going on there."*

But Day and the FBI disputed any suggestion they improperly encouraged the other men. Day told ABC News that, at the FBI's direction, he was careful not to "bring up an idea."

"Once they broached the idea, then I could follow up on that," he said.

A federal jury eventually convicted Stein, Wright and Allen of terrorism and civil rights-related charges. Each was sentenced to decades in prison.

The trio sought to have their convictions overturned, arguing in part that they were entrapped by Day and the FBI. But a federal appeals court rejected those claims earlier this year.

“[The men’s] rhetoric regarding Muslims predated Mr. Day’s involvement,” and “their actions” belie any claim “that their plans would not have materialized” without Day, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth District ruled in January.

As Mattivi described it, "Entrapment is when the government plants the idea in their head, not when the government gives them the mechanism to do it. ... They chose a date, they chose a location, they chose a method."

‘Do the right thing’

“Ideas can be very dangerous,” Day’s son, Brandon Day, noted to ABC News. “They can change the world in a good way. But at the same time, these guys were motivated by evil ideas ... they got from the internet [and other] sources that led them to where they are now.”

Recordings from the case show that several other militia members Stein tried to recruit early on knew about his radical views and his desire to harm Muslims, but they didn’t call authorities.

“We had example after example of militia members that these guys tried to recruit, who saw the wrong in what they were trying to do ... but they didn’t do anything about it,” Mattivi said.

Day said his “biggest concern” now is that even more people will refuse to speak up when they see their own friend or family member radicalizing to violence.

“There’s evil, mean, hateful people out there that wanna kill,” Day warned. “All you gotta do is call the FBI. Call local law enforcement. ... Just do the right thing.”

In [recent testimony](#) to Congress, FBI director Chris Wray said tracking and thwarting hate-fueled domestic terrorists is “our highest threat priority,” and he warned the FBI was seeing “a significant uptick” in attacks by violent militia members and other anti-government extremists.

Speaking in Washington over the summer, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the FBI and Day’s efforts years earlier in a small Kansas town showed “what can go right” in the federal government’s fight against domestic terrorism.

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HEADLINE	<b>10/29 Dutch woman faces terrorism charge</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://apnews.com/article/europe-virginia-netherlands-extradition-terrorism-8b09f14b8cdc78f8723f88839a7d9d3d">https://apnews.com/article/europe-virginia-netherlands-extradition-terrorism-8b09f14b8cdc78f8723f88839a7d9d3d</a>
GIST	<p>ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A Dutch woman charged seven years ago with raising money for the Somali terrorist group al-Shabab has been extradited to the U.S. to face trial.</p> <p>Farhia Hassan, 38, made an initial appearance Friday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria after being brought to the U.S. on Thursday on charges of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization. She was ordered held pending her next hearing.</p> <p>Prosecutors say Hassan helped raise money by telling donors it would fund schools and orphans when it was actually going to terrorists. The indictment alleges that al-Shabab cells in Nairobi, Kenya, and Hargeisa, Somalia received payments over a period from 2011 through 2014.</p> <p>She faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.</p> <p>While Hassan was in the Netherlands fighting extradition over the last seven years, her lawyers in the U.S. were working to get the charges against her tossed out. The defense lawyers argued that the U.S. lacked jurisdiction to charge a Dutch woman with giving money to a Somali terrorist group. And they said the long delays in bringing her to trial amounted to a denial of her speedy trial rights.</p>



	<p>But Judge Anthony Trenga ruled last year that the case could move forward. He said that several of Hassan's co-conspirators were based in the U.S., and that the U.S. has a legitimate interest in prosecuting supporters of a group designated as a terrorist organization.</p> <p>He also ruled that Hassan's own efforts to fight extradition were responsible for the trial delays. Hassan's lawyer Jessica Carmichael declined comment after Friday's hearing.</p> <p>Two of Hassan's co-defendants, Muna Osman Jama of Reston, Virginia, and Hinda Osman Dhirane of Kent, Washington, were convicted back in 2016 and received prison sentences of 12 and 11 years, respectively.</p> <p>At trial, defense lawyers argued that the amounts contributed by the women were negligible, amounting to a few thousand dollars in total from a group of about 15 women. They also said the money was intended to care for injured al-Shabab soldiers and that providing funds for medicine in an armed conflict cannot be considered a criminal act under international treaties.</p> <p>The defense also raised First Amendment issues, saying their advocacy for al-Shabab should not be fodder for a criminal conviction.</p>
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## Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	11/02 Human history is melting away
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/science/climate-change-archaeology.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/science/climate-change-archaeology.html</a>
GIST	<p>For the past few centuries, the Yup'ik peoples of Alaska have told gruesome tales of a massacre that occurred during the Bow and Arrow War Days, a series of long and often brutal battles across the Bering Sea coast and the Yukon.</p> <p>According to one account, the carnage started when one village sent a war party to raid another. But the residents had been tipped off and set an ambush, wiping out the marauders. The victors then attacked the undefended town, torching it and slaughtering its inhabitants. No one was spared.</p> <p>For the last 12 years, Rick Knecht has led an excavation at a site called Nunalleq, about 400 miles west of Anchorage. "When we began, the hope was to learn something about Yup'ik prehistory by digging in an average village," said Dr. Knecht, an archaeologist at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. "Little did we know that we were digging in something approaching the Yup'ik equivalent of Troy."</p> <p>Their most astonishing discovery was the charred remnants of a large communal sod house. The ground was black and clayey and riddled with hundreds of slate arrow points, as if from a prehistoric drive-by shooting. In all, the researchers and native Yup'ik people who live in the area unearthed more than 100,000 well-preserved artifacts, as well as the singed carrion of two dogs and the scattered bones of at least 28 people, almost all women, children and elders. Several of them had evidently been dragged out of the house, bound with grass rope and killed — some beheaded. "It is a complex murder scene," Dr. Knecht said. "It is also a rare and detailed archaeological example of Indigenous warfare."</p> <p>Until recently, the site had been deepfrozen in the subsoil known as permafrost. As global temperatures gather pace, permafrost and glaciers are thawing and eroding rapidly across vast areas of Earth, releasing many of the objects that they had absorbed and revealing aspects of life in a once inaccessible past.</p> <p>"The circumpolar world is, or was, full of miraculously preserved sites like Nunalleq," Dr. Knecht said. "They offer a window into the unexpectedly rich lives of prehistoric hunters and foragers like no other."</p> <p><b>The Iceman emerges</b></p>

Glacial archaeology is a relatively new discipline. The ice was literally broken during the summer of 1991 when German hikers in the Ötztal Alps spotted a tea-colored corpse half-embedded on the Italian side of the border with Austria. Initially mistaken for a modern-day mountaineer killed in a climbing accident, Ötzi the Iceman, as he came to be called, was shown through carbon-dating to have died about 5,300 years ago.

A short, comprehensively tattooed man in his mid-40s, Ötzi wore a bearskin cap, several layers of clothing made of goat and deer hides, and bearskin-soled shoes stuffed with grass to keep his feet warm. The Iceman's survival gear included a longbow of yew, a quiver of arrows, a copper ax and a kind of crude first-aid kit full of plants with powerful pharmacological properties. A chest X-ray and a CT scan showed a flint arrowhead buried deep in Ötzi's left shoulder, suggesting that he may have bled to death. His killing is humankind's oldest unsolved cold case.

Six years later, in the Yukon's snow fields, hunting tools dating back thousands of years appeared from the melting ice. Soon, similar finds were reported in Western Canada, the Rockies and the Swiss Alps.

In 2006, a long, hot autumn in Norway resulted in an explosion of discoveries in the snowbound Jotunheimen mountains, home to the Jötnar, the rock and frost giants of Norse mythology. Of all the dislodged detritus, the most intriguing was a 3,400-year-old proto-Oxford most likely fashioned out of reindeer hide.

The discovery of the Bronze Age shoe signified the beginning of glacial surveying in the peaks of Innlandet County, where the state-funded Glacier Archaeology Program was started in 2011. Outside of the Yukon, it is the only permanent rescue project for discoveries in ice.

Glacial archaeology differs from its lowland cousin in critical ways. G.A.P. researchers usually conduct fieldwork only within a short time frame from mid-August to mid-September, between the thaw of old snow and the arrival of new. "If we start too early, much of the snow from the previous winter will still cover the old ice and lessen the chance of making discoveries," said Lars Holger Pilo, co-director of the Glacier Archaeology Program. "Starting too late is also hazardous. We might get early winter snow, and the field season could be over before we begin." Glacial discoveries tend to be limited to what archaeologists can glean on the previously ice-locked ground.

When the program started, the finds were mainly Iron Age and medieval, from 500 to 1,500 years ago. But as the melting widens, ever older periods of history are being exposed. "We have now melted back to the Stone Age in some places, with pieces as old as six millenniums," Dr. Pilo said. "We are speeding back in time."

To date, the Glacier Archaeology Program has recovered about 3,500 artifacts, many preserved in extraordinary delicacy. Norway has more than half of the prehistoric and medieval finds from the ice globally. A freshly unfrozen alpine pass at Lendbreen — in use from about 600 to 1,700 years ago — yielded evidence of the tradespeople who traversed it: horseshoes, horse dung, a rudimentary ski and even a box filled with beeswax.

Over the last decade, the relics melting out of the Alps have included the mummified remains of a Swiss couple missing since 1942 and the wreckage of an American military plane that crash-landed during turbulent weather in 1946. In Russia, scientists have regenerated reproductive tissue from unripe fruits of a narrow-leafed campion freeze-dried under the tundra for 32,000 years. A farsighted arctic ground squirrel had stored the fruit in its burrow.

Spectacular glacial finds invariably involve luck, as Craig Lee, an archaeologist at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, can attest. Fourteen years ago, in the mountain ice outside Yellowstone National Park, he spotted the foreshaft of a throwing spear called an atlatl dart, carved from a birch sapling 10,300 years ago. The primitive hunting weapon is the earliest organic artifact ever to be retrieved from an ice patch.

“In the Yukon, ice patch discoveries have given us new insights into the pre-European tradition of copper-working by Indigenous peoples,” said William Taylor, an archaeologist at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History in Boulder. “In the Rockies, researchers have recovered everything from frozen trees that document important changes in climate and vegetation to the hunting implements of some of the first peoples of the continent.”

Dr. Taylor’s own work focuses on the relationship between climate and social change in early nomadic societies. His ongoing survey of melting ice margins in the Altai Mountains of western Mongolia has produced artifacts that upended some of the most basic archaeological assumptions about the area’s history. Although people in the region have long been classified as herders, Dr. Taylor’s team discovered an icy killing ground of argali sheep, along with the spears and arrows used to slay them. Laboratory analysis revealed that big-game hunting has been an essential part of pastoral subsistence and culture in the Eastern Steppes for more than 3,500 years.

### **Meet the ancient beetles**

About 10 percent of the planet’s land mass is covered with glacial ice, and as the world defrosts, ancient creatures great and small are being unburied as well. In southern Chile, dozens of nearly complete skeletons of ichthyosaurs were disgorged near the Tyndall Glacier. The marine reptiles lived between the Triassic and Cretaceous periods, which extended from 66 million to 250 million years ago.

Three-million-year-old insect fossils have been recovered in eastern Alaska (blind weevils of the genus *Otibazo*) and the western Yukon Territory (the species *Notiophilus aeneus*, better known as brassy big-eyed beetles).

The flashiest archaeological finds in Yakutia, a republic in northeastern Siberia, have been the carcasses of woolly mammoths, woolly rhinos, steppe bison and cave lions — big cats that once roamed widely across the northern hemisphere. The extinct beasts had lain suspended in their refrigerated graves for nine millennia or more, like grapes in Jell-O.

In 2018, a perfectly intact 42,000-year-old foal — a long-gone species known as the Lena horse — was found entombed in the ice of Siberia’s Batagaika Crater with urine in its bladder and liquid blood in its veins.

That same year, in other parts of Yakutia, mammoth hunters chanced upon the severed head of a vanished subspecies of wolf, and researchers dug up an 18,000-year-old puppy that looked like nothing alive today. “The canine may have been an evolutionary link between wolves and modern dogs,” said Love Dalén, a Swedish geneticist who has sequenced the creature’s genome. “It is named Dogor, which means ‘friend’ in the Yakut language and is also a clever play on the question ‘dog or wolf.’”

Dogor was exhumed in an icy lump of mud near the Indigirka River. Ice patches turn out to be where most discoveries are made. The basic difference between a glacier and an ice patch is that a glacier moves. An ice patch does not move much, which makes it a more reliable preservationist.

“The constant movement inside glaciers damages both bodies and artifacts, and eventually dumps the sad debris at the mouth of the ice floe,” Dr. Pilo, of the Glacier Archaeology Program in Norway, said. “Due to the movement and the continuous renewal of the ice, glaciers rarely preserve objects more than 500 years.”

Dr. Lee, of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, likens the destruction wrought by glacial degeneration to a library on fire. “Now is not the time to stand around pointing fingers at one another trying to lay blame for the blaze,” he said. “Now is the time to rescue what books can be saved for the edification of the future.”

### **On thin ice**

It's a grim inside joke among glacial archaeologists that their field of study has been one of the few beneficiaries of climate change. But while retreating ice and snow makes some prehistoric treasures briefly accessible, exposure to the elements threatens to swiftly destroy them.

Once soft organic materials — leather, textiles, arrow fletchings — surface, researchers have a year at most to rescue them for conservation before the items degrade and are lost forever. “After they are gone,” Dr. Taylor said, “our opportunity to use them to understand the past and prepare for the future is gone with them.”

E. James Dixon, former director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, agreed. “The sheer scale of the loss relative to the number of archaeologists researching these sites is overwhelming,” he said. “It’s like an archaeological mass extinction where certain types of sites are all disappearing at approximately the same time.”

Climate change has brought with it a cascade of consequences. Oceanfront erosion has been devastating. In some parts of Alaska, as much as a mile of coastline has receded over the last 80 years, and with it the entire archaeological and fossil record. “Sites are not just being washed away, but literally rotting in the ground,” Dr. Knecht said.

“Saving what we can isn’t just a matter of safeguarding Yup’ik culture or northern prehistory, but the heritage of all humanity,” he said. “After all, hunting and foraging is how all humans lived for the vast majority of our collective existence on earth.”

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HEADLINE	11/01 Vaccine medical exemptions for sale
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/jesse-jones/covid-19-vaccine-medical-exemptions-sale-no-appointment-necessary/ZK2WJUZEZNANZGGRX2N2UW27ZI/">https://www.kiro7.com/news/jesse-jones/covid-19-vaccine-medical-exemptions-sale-no-appointment-necessary/ZK2WJUZEZNANZGGRX2N2UW27ZI/</a>
GIST	<p>Bellevue, WA — From the <a href="#">Washington State Patrol</a> to <a href="#">ferry workers</a> and even <a href="#">WSU's football coach</a>, the battle over COVID-19 vaccine waivers is still waging.</p> <p>But what if I told you that for less than \$200 you might be able to buy what appears to be a signed COVID vaccine exemption note from a doctor?</p> <p>Well, it's true.</p> <p>“Completely irresponsible. Completely unethical,” Bellevue-based nurse practitioner Tyler Cook tells me.</p> <p>Cook has been on the front lines of the pandemic working in pulmonology. He's also on TikTok debunking medical misinformation online. He tipped me off to a page he found, called CovidVaccineWaiver.com.</p> <p>“All I could do was put my name and click a checkbox saying I have a fear of needles and then get gifted for \$180 for a card and apparently a doctor's note,” says Cook.</p> <p>So that's exactly what I did. I went to the website.</p> <p><i>“Our waivers are reviewed and signed by a licensed M.D. and have the same validity as one given to you by your personal physician.”</i></p> <p>And I checked out the questionnaire.</p> <p>I clicked “I'm anxious about the vaccine,” paid \$160, and a few days later I got an exemption card and a note on prescription pad paper signed with the name Doctor Robert Coble of Hendersonville, Tennessee.</p>

“It’s very scary that physicians are willing to - essentially - exempt for no good medical reason, for no reason at all other than perhaps they made a buck,” says Dr. Patricia Kuszler.

Dr. Kuszler is a medical doctor, attorney, and professor for both law and medicine at the University of Washington.

“This is the sort of thing we have medical boards to look at physicians licenses for this kind of shoddy practice,” says Dr. Kuszler.

Dr. Michael Carome, director of the health research group at the non-profit watchdog group [Public Citizen](#), agrees.

“I think the goal of the prescription paper is to make it look official,” says Dr. Carome. “And make it look like the person presenting that slip of paper actually saw that doctor. And had an informed discussion about whether there was a need to avoid the vaccination. And no such action took place.”

### **We have questions for the doctor.**

We checked the address on the prescription note and it’s not to an office, but rather a mailbox store.

And we looked at the physician database with the Tennessee Department of Health. There is a Dr. Robert Coble who is licensed with no disciplinary record.

I called and emailed the doctor and the people behind the website, along with the parent company, MedChoice LLC. We did not get any response.

Since Dr. Coble isn’t returning our messages, we can’t say if he is actually signing these notes.

So we called our sister station in Nashville. They also bought a card, got the signed note, and made a house call to Dr. Coble.

NewsChannel 5 Nashville: “We wanted to talk to you about the COVID vaccine waivers you’re signing.”  
Dr. Coble: “No comment.”

NewsChannel 5 Nashville: “No comment? This is your name and your Tennessee medical license that’s right here on these things.”

Dr. Coble: “I heard you last night. No comment.”

NewsChannel 5 Nashville: “Why won’t you talk to us about this? Why are you doing this? Is this your signature?”

We tried to call Dr. Coble again and the phone was disconnected.

The website now has a note saying, *“this site is inoperative. It is unlikely that we will return.”*

The parent company’s page is still up. They now have an “exemptions” section. I made an appointment for a consultation, but didn’t hear back.

### **Is it even legal?**

It’s unclear.

In a statement, the Tennessee Department of Health tells us:

*“A complaint must be filed before the Board of Medical Examiners can initiate an investigation to determine if there is a violation of standards of practice that would warrant disciplinary action. Furthermore, complaints and investigations are confidential until disciplinary action is taken.”*

We also contacted the Federal Trade Commission. A regional director said their focus is on misrepresentation. Because the company delivered on its promise of a doctor's note and a waiver, there may be nothing for them to enforce.

**Will it work at your job?**

That depends on your employer. If they're checking hard, you could be out \$160. But even if they do accept the exemption, they may not make an accommodation.

We've seen that play out with state workers. The latest numbers from Washington's Office of Financial Management show that within state executive cabinet agencies like the Washington State Patrol, Department of Corrections, and DSHS, 1,287 workers requested medical exemptions. 982 exemptions were approved but only 435 accommodations have been granted.

That means you could be out of a job and your \$160.

And that brings us to Dr. Kuszler's biggest worry: the unknown. We don't know how many exemptions were sold and accepted by employers.

"And one of the key issues here is, it's not so much whether someone wants the vaccine or they don't want the vaccine," says Dr. Kuszler. "The question is do they have the right to inflict themselves as a carrier on everybody else they work with, everybody else they go to the store with, everybody else in general?"

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HEADLINE	11/01 Dangerous bacteria on 6 WSF ferries
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/dangerous-bacteria-detected-washington-state-ferries/5D6LQOIXJFHIFN2UPN6STGRCO4/">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/dangerous-bacteria-detected-washington-state-ferries/5D6LQOIXJFHIFN2UPN6STGRCO4/</a>
GIST	<p>Legionella, a dangerous and at times deadly type of bacteria, has been detected on 6 Washington State ferries.</p> <p>Washington State Ferries says while planning to reopen the galley spaces, they tested water lines for several contaminants to get ahead of any issues, and discovered the bacteria last month.</p> <p>"We're flushing those systems and cleaning those systems, making them okay before we put them back online," says Ian Sterling, Public Information Officer for the ferry system.</p> <p>Sterling says many of the water lines on board haven't been used for at least 18 months, allowing the bacteria to grow. He adds no passengers or crew members would have access to the lines and the discovery shouldn't be cause for alarm.</p> <p>"There's no danger here to the public or crew unless we were to open these things up and not tested," says Sterling. "That would have caused a problem."</p> <p>Despite the assurances, many commuters say the news is still concerning.</p> <p>"I would want to know that they've thoroughly tested it and that wherever we are, mask-less or not, we're going to be safe," says Emily Helming who has used the ferries in the past. "It's concerning."</p> <p>Richard Wright adds, "Definitely something to be wary of for sure. At least they're trying to make it go away. Make the common areas more accessible for the future."</p> <p>Sterling says the bacteria should not impact any schedules or take any vessels out of service. He says even if a commuter is on a boat that has elevated levels of Legionella, they would not have access to any areas where the bacteria could possibly be present.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Names run out for Atlantic storms</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-wanda-forms-hurricane-forecasters-run-out-of-names-for-atlantic-storms-11635802018?mod=hp_lead_pos12">https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-wanda-forms-hurricane-forecasters-run-out-of-names-for-atlantic-storms-11635802018?mod=hp_lead_pos12</a>
GIST	<p>There have been so many storms in the Atlantic Ocean this year that the National Hurricane Center has used up all 21 available names, the third time in recorded history that has happened.</p> <p>Subtropical storm Wanda, which formed this weekend and isn't expected to make landfall, was the last name <a href="#">on the list</a>. The last two times all names were used were <a href="#">last year</a>, when there were 30 named storms in the Atlantic, and in 2005, when there were 28 named storms, including Hurricane Katrina, which pummeled New Orleans.</p> <p>Naming storms is meant to make it easier to discuss them and communicate with the public. The National Hurricane Center has named storms since 1953, in a process that is now run by the World Meteorological Organization. When a storm has winds of 39 miles an hour or more, the National Hurricane Center chooses an Atlantic storm from a list set for that year. Each list has 21 names. The names are used again every six years, but if a storm is extremely destructive or deadly, that name is retired for good, <a href="#">like in the case of Katrina</a>.</p> <p>In the past, when the 21 names were used up, the National Hurricane Center would name any other storms after the Greek alphabet. But that is no longer the case after 2020, when Hurricanes <a href="#">Zeta</a>, <a href="#">Eta</a> and <a href="#">Theta</a> caused confusion because they sounded too much alike, and the public focused more on the names than the destruction the storms caused, according to Dennis Feltgen, a spokesman for the National Hurricane Center.</p> <p>In March, the World Meteorological Organization came up with a list of 21 additional names should the first list be exhausted. If any other storm should form this year in the Atlantic, it will be called Adria. After that, there are Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn and so on. There is still about a month left in the Atlantic hurricane season, which officially ends Nov. 30.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Twist: retiring but delaying Social Security</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/11/01/latest-twist-great-resignation-retiring-delaying-social-security/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/11/01/latest-twist-great-resignation-retiring-delaying-social-security/</a>
GIST	<p>For better-off Americans, the pandemic economy created some of the strongest incentives to retire in modern history, with generous federal stimulus, incredible market gains, skyrocketing home values and health concerns drawing many Americans into early retirement.</p> <p>The surprising twist? Many of these retirees also opted to put off claiming Social Security benefits, an exclusive Washington Post analysis shows. By delaying their benefits, these retirees can expect to collect higher monthly checks in the future.</p> <p>The number of workers applying for Social Security benefits in the 12 months ending in September fell 5 percent from the same period a year earlier, the biggest drop in almost two decades, according to the Social Security Administration.</p> <p>During the same period, retirements among workers ages 65 to 69 were up 5 percent, according to a Washington Post analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data. (It's not clear how many of those who retired early delayed Social Security benefits, as BLS doesn't track such benefits in its monthly surveys.)</p> <p>America's retiree population grew by about 3 million during the pandemic, about double what would have been expected given pre-pandemic trends, which has been previously reported. But the surprising surge in older Americans delaying Social Security upon retirement is another example of a number of unusual trends roiling the American labor market. Most notably, workers of all ages are quitting jobs in record numbers, in what has been dubbed the "Great Resignation."</p>

Economists, researchers and government officials attribute the trend to generous federal stimulus and unemployment insurance payments that enabled retirees to make ends meet in the short term; soaring stock and home prices that fattened retirement accounts; and pandemic-related restrictions at Social Security field offices nationwide that forced seniors to apply online.

“Usually in economic downturns, we see increased reliance on Social Security programs, and thought that’s what was going to be coming with the pandemic,” said Lauren Hersch Nicholas, an economist at the University of Colorado at Denver who has studied the phenomenon. “The claiming numbers just don’t show that at all.”

Social Security allows most people to enroll as early as age 62, but steadily increases monthly payments to those who enroll later, up to age 70. Someone who turned 65 this year and last earned \$60,000 could see their monthly payment jump from \$1,418 to \$1,550, a 9 percent increase, by delaying their retirement by a year, according to Social Security’s calculations.

Economist Courtney Coile of Wellesley College said the unusual rise in retirements, especially among women, was probably driven by the unprecedented nature of this crisis.

“Health concerns are unique to this recession and may be playing a role, especially because workers ages 65 and above are less likely to be able to telework than younger workers,” Coile said.

The coronavirus pandemic has made workplaces far more dangerous for those who are older or in vulnerable health, prompting an unusual wave of retirements among a population that has accrued a bit of a nest egg.

Fawn Michel, a certified public accountant living in Port Orchard, Wash., retired in May at 62 but doesn’t plan to take Social Security until she turns 70.

Early this year, she and her husband analyzed their fast-growing portfolio and realized she didn’t have to keep working. As long as they kept their expenses near their pandemic lows, she could afford to retire without taking Social Security early. As her firm returned to the office, she wouldn’t have to drive two-plus hours to work in a Seattle suburb each day, then drive two-plus hours back each night.

“I just decided I’d had enough, you know?” Michel said, adding that the pandemic had really changed her thinking on retirement. “When you have friends and family dying from something like this, I’m thinking, ‘Well, you do this now, or maybe it’s never going to happen.’”

Experts have not yet settled on one easy explanation for why people are retiring early and delaying Social Security, although they are zeroing in on possible causes.

Some retirement experts, including those at the Social Security Administration, point to the three federal stimulus payments and expanded unemployment insurance during the pandemic, which have allowed some seniors to make ends meet without taking Social Security, even if they had been struggling financially.

“Extended unemployment payments and pandemic relief payments have contributed to lower benefit applications,” the Social Security Administration’s Office of the Chief Actuary said as part of a longer statement to The Post.

For example, Marilyn, who spoke about her employment situation on the condition that her last name be withheld, said she had never expected to be able to quit her job at age 65. But during the pandemic, she paid off her car with stimulus checks and watched her nest egg grow as her expenses plummeted. She no longer had to commute, eat out or buy work clothes. She saved even more by growing her own corn, tomatoes, cabbage and kale in her backyard garden in Laurel, Md.

In the coming years, she hopes to work part-time and travel. “I consider myself really fortunate, I really do,” said Marilyn, one of many people who reached out to Post columnist Karla Miller after her columns on the Great Resignation.

Nicholas, the Colorado economist, agreed, saying that extra government benefits may have provided older Americans with a cushion to delay taking Social Security in a time of extreme uncertainty and volatile markets.

“It may be that all of the stimulus benefits were effective in keeping them from full-on deciding to claim benefits in the short term,” Nicholas said. “There’s a lot of wait and see.”

In a recent working paper circulated by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Nicholas and three collaborators found no relationship between the number of Social Security retirements in an area and higher levels of pandemic shutdowns or higher levels of in-person work. The team speculates that national factors such as federal stimulus payments and reductions in service at local Social Security offices could have played a role.

In a separate and ongoing research effort, Wellesley’s Coile and Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student Haiyi Zhang set out to understand how the pandemic changed retirement, and found themselves looking to explain an early retirement wave. They found that workers were less likely to retire if they could work from home. However, they didn’t see evidence that local coronavirus outbreaks nor the local job market had an effect on early retirements.

Economists also agreed that it wasn’t likely that covid-19 deaths played a direct role in the drop in Social Security applications, even though about 166,000 of the 737,000 Americans who have died of covid-19 were between the ages of 65 and 75, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nicholas noted that covid-19 tended to be most fatal to those who were otherwise ill or in nursing homes — groups that were already likely to be retired and collecting Social Security.

Many early retirees told The Post they were surprised this year to see how much soaring stock and home prices had improved their financial situation.

Since the pandemic began, the S&P 500 has offered returns as high as 40 percent, depending on the dates used and whether dividends were reinvested. Investors who entered the pandemic with a nest egg of about \$700,000 could have become millionaires — and that’s without considering household equity in real estate. Home values also jumped more than 20 percent over that same time period, according to Zillow. Markets such as Austin; Boise, Idaho; and Kalispell, Mont., saw gains north of 50 percent.

More than half of Americans (54.5 percent) ages 55 to 64 have retirement accounts and three-quarters (74.1 percent) own their home as of 2019, the most recent date for which Federal Reserve data is available.

At age 62, Cheryl Miller now plans to retire from her job in academic medicine in a matter of months, even though she won’t collect Social Security for four more years. She is burned out at work and confident she’ll be content with a modest lifestyle in her home in Hillsborough, N.C., a small town in the forested hills a dozen miles northwest of Durham.

She sat down recently with her financial adviser to run the numbers. Her portfolio was thriving, her older-model car was paid off and the mortgage on her fast-appreciating home was affordable. If she kept her expenses low and got insurance from a public health-care exchange, she could leave her job and still make ends meet until she’d be eligible to collect full Social Security at age 66 and 10 months. (For those born after 1959, full retirement age is 67; those born earlier can collect a few months earlier.)

“It’s a short-term frugality strategy,” said Miller, who is now delaying foreign travel, including a safari trip to Africa. “I will take more road trips. The trip to Australia is going to be delayed. The money saved by not doing a lot of traveling over the past year or two helps a lot.”

While it did not come up in The Post's interviews with retirees, Nicholas suggested that some may have put off filing for benefits because their local Social Security office restricted in-person activities to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In addition to online and phone services, the Social Security Administration operates more than 1,200 field offices, where Americans can apply for benefits, get new Social Security cards or enroll in other programs. During the pandemic, those offices have been limited in their operations, with in-person appointments restricted to critical situations.

The Social Security Administration's Office of the Chief Actuary noted that field office closures "may not be a major factor" in holding back applications because "online filing of the application is widely used by retirees."

For some retirees, however, delaying social security may not make financial sense. Nancy Westbrook, a Vermont financial adviser with One Day In July, said clients often focus on maximizing their monthly social security check and forget to consider how to maximize their lifetime returns.

"Obviously there were some unexpected income sources that were not predicted pre-pandemic that have helped people justify delaying that benefit. But that is temporary and should be considered separately," Westbrook said. "You really need to look at the Social Security benefit and evaluate what you are giving up, including the ability to invest the excess savings, by waiting."

Regardless of what is driving the trend, the delayed Social Security wave signals an improving retirement situation for many Americans — especially in the wake of a record-shattering economic crisis.

"This is a much better set of outcomes among older workers than we were expecting when the pandemic was starting," Nicholas said.

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HEADLINE	11/01 UN: on track last 7yrs to be hottest record
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3154376/last-seven-years-track-be-hottest-record-un-warns-earth-headed">https://www.scmp.com/news/world/europe/article/3154376/last-seven-years-track-be-hottest-record-un-warns-earth-headed</a>
GIST	<p>The years from 2015 to 2021 are on track to be the seven hottest on record, the World Meteorological Organisation said on Sunday, warning that the planet was heading into "uncharted territory".</p> <p>The preliminary WMO state of the climate report, launched as the UN COP26 climate conference opens, said that <a href="#">global warming</a> from greenhouse gas emissions threatens "far-reaching repercussions for current and future generations".</p> <p>Based on data for the first nine months of the year, the WMO said 2021 was likely to be between the fifth and seventh warmest year on record – despite the cooling effect of the La Nina phenomenon that lowered temperatures at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>"From the ocean depths to mountain tops, from melting glaciers to relentless extreme weather events, ecosystems and communities around the globe are being devastated," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a statement on the report.</p> <p>He added that the two-week COP26 climate conference "must be a turning point for people and planet". The WMO found that the average temperature for 2021 was around 1.09 degrees Celsius (30 Fahrenheit) higher than pre-industrial levels.</p> <p>And the average temperature over the last 20 years (2002-2021) for the first time exceeded the symbolic threshold of 1 degree above the mid-19th century, when humans began burning fossil fuels on an industrial scale.</p>

This will “focus the minds of delegates at COP26 aspiring to keep global temperature rise to within the limits agreed in Paris six years ago”, said Stephen Belcher, chief scientist at Britain’s Met Office.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap [global warming](#) at “well below” 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and 1.5 degrees if possible.

Since then the world has seen a litany of weather disasters including record-shattering wildfires across Australia and Siberia, a once-in-a-thousand-years heatwave in North America and extreme rainfall that caused massive flooding in Asia, Africa, the US and Europe.

“Extreme events are the new norm,” said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. “There is mounting scientific evidence that some of these bear the footprint of human-induced [climate change](#).”

The state of the climate report is a snapshot of planetary health, including temperatures, extreme weather, glacier retreat and ice melt.

Ocean acidification due to the absorption of carbon dioxide by the seas was “unprecedented” in at least 26,000 years, the WMO said, adding that this will lessen the ability of the oceans to take in more CO<sub>2</sub>.

Meanwhile, sea level rise – mainly caused by the expansion of warming seawater and the melting of ice on land – was at a new high.

The report is “shocking and deeply disturbing and yet another wake-up call to world leaders that time has run out for talk”, said Jonathan Bamber, Director of the Bristol Glaciology Centre, in comments to the Science Media Centre.

He said on the current trajectory, sea level rise could exceed 2 metres (more than 6 feet) by 2100, which could displace some 630 million people worldwide.

“The consequences of that are unimaginable,” said Bamber.

“What is required now is profound and comprehensive action by every nation and state actor to limit further and deeper climate breakdown.”

On Sunday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson issued a rallying cry to world leaders at the start of the COP26 climate summit.

The UK prime minister, who said earlier the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement risks unravelling if nations don’t step up, called on leaders to improve on their promises after a G20 summit in Rome produced a tepid agreement.

“Humanity has long since run down the clock on climate change,” Johnson was due to say at the opening ceremony of the summit on Monday, according to text released by his office. “It’s one minute to midnight and we need to act now.”

Johnson has struggled to build momentum going into the two-week climate negotiations, playing down expectations and saying the talks will be tough.

“If we are going to prevent COP26 from being a failure then that must change. And I must be clear, that if Glasgow fails, then the whole thing fails. The Paris Agreement will have crumpled at the first reckoning.”

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HEADLINE	11/01 Climate summit: parade of 400 private jets
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10152027/Hypocrite-airways-Jeff-Bezoss-48m-gulf-stream-leads-parade-400-private-jets.html">https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10152027/Hypocrite-airways-Jeff-Bezoss-48m-gulf-stream-leads-parade-400-private-jets.html</a>

Amazon founder [Jeff Bezos](#)' £48million Gulf Stream has led a 400-strong parade of private jets into COP26 including Prince Albert of Monaco, scores of royals and dozens of 'green' CEOs - as an extraordinary traffic jam forced empty planes to fly 30 miles to find space to park.

Some environmental activists at the COP26 climate conference will be urging others to cut down on air travel and eat less meat, but little has been said about the billionaires flying in on their own planes on routes already served by commercial airlines.

Meanwhile, as the super-rich were whisked away into waiting limos, hundreds of less fortunate delegates were left unable to get to [Glasgow](#) after brutal storms crippled rail links, forcing travellers to sleep on the floor of Euston station in [London](#).

On Sunday, MailOnline observed at least 52 private jets landing at Glasgow - while estimates put the total number flying in for the conference at 400. Conservative predictions suggest the fleet of private jets arriving for COP26 will blast out 13,000tonnes of carbon dioxide in total - equivalent to the amount consumed by more than 1,600 Britons in a year.

Prince Charles was among those travelling by non-commercial plane from the G20 in Rome, MailOnline can reveal. Flight records suggest the plane was an MOD jet.

A Clarence House spokesman said: 'His Royal Highness has personally campaigned for a shift towards Sustainable Aviation Fuel and would only undertake travel to Rome when it was agreed that sustainable fuel would be used in the plane.' The spokesman said that sustainable fuel would also be used 'wherever possible... from now on'.

As Boris Johnson used his opening address to compare world leaders to James Bond trying to diffuse a 'doomsday device' some found their own way of rising to the challenge, with Prince Albert of Monaco appearing to be among those choosing to fly private - according to an analysis of flight records by MailOnline.

Bank of America, which in PR documents boasts of its 'commitment to sustainability', was the registered owner of one private jet arriving in Scotland. They are far more polluting than commercial planes, cars or trains, with the typical one belching out two tonnes of carbon dioxide every hour.

Hours after telling delegates at COP26 that the conference 'can and must mark the beginning of the end' of the climate change catastrophe, Boris Johnson admitted he would fly home to London from Glasgow rather than travel by rail.

His revelation came after Mr Bezos's £48million Gulf Stream private jet was pictured landing in Glasgow.

Mr Bezos - who regularly lectures the world on climate change - arrived in Glasgow fresh from celebrating Microsoft founder Bill Gates' 66th birthday on a £2million-a-week superyacht off the coast of Turkey in an event that generated fresh claims of green hypocrisy. He reached the boat by helicopter, according to reports.

Joe Biden touched down in Edinburgh today while Germany's Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron of France arrived at Glasgow. President Biden alone will generate an estimated 2.2million pounds of carbon to reach the summit, thanks to a fleet of four planes, the Marine One helicopter and an enormous motorcade including The Beast and numerous SUVs.

If all the vehicles are petrol-run, estimates show they will have pumped out 360kg of carbon over the 40-mile journey. It is estimated the entire journey for the President could generate up to 2.2million pounds of carbon.



Other private jets blasted in to Scotland from destinations including Stockholm, Rome, London and Brussels - which are all served by regular commercial routes. The majority of the planes were hired from rental firms, making it difficult to work out who was on board.

There was so much air traffic that some jets dropped off VIPs at Glasgow Airport and then flew 30 miles to nearby Prestwick due to a shortage of parking. Some also landed in Edinburgh, before presumably travelling by land.

Boris Johnson flew in from Rome on his Union flag-embossed Airbus A321, but was stuck circling Glasgow for more than 20 minutes because of the number of jets arriving.

He was behind the President of South Korea, who also flew in from Rome, where a G20 conference took place over the weekend.

It also emerged today that the CEO of Sky, one of COP26's main sponsors, had been regularly commuting by private jet to the UK from her home 3,500 miles away in the US.

Since January, Dana Strong had been flying back and forth between London and Philadelphia, where she was based, until moving permanently to the UK in June, the Telegraph reported.

Last night Labour's environment spokesman Luke Pollard said world leaders should be 'leading by example.'

'People have sympathy for world leaders flying in from the other side of the world but those coming domestically should be coming by train,' he said.

'The idea the Prime Minister will fly home from Cop26 after flying from London to Cornwall for the G7 smacks of being out-of-touch.

'In terms of Mr Bezos, if you want to have credibility in the debate, you have to not only be decarbonising your company, you should be demonstrating your commitment with your own actions, especially when you are one of the richest people on the planet.'

Greg Archer, UK director of the Transport and Environment campaign group, said: 'Business leaders and heads of state flying into the climate talks on private jets illustrates how totally out of touch they are with public opinion to urgently tackle the climate emergency.

'These jets cause as much heating of the planet during a three-hour return flight than the average Brit does in a year.'

Asked why Mr Johnson was not taking the train, the PM's official spokesman said he faced 'significant time constraints'.

The spokesman said the jet used by the PM this week produces half the emissions of his normal official plane, partly because of the use of 'sustainable' jet fuel. Carbon emissions relating to the flight will be 'offset' through schemes such as tree planting.

Yesterday, MailOnline watched from beside the runway as plane after plane carrying leaders, dignitaries, security personnel landed at Glasgow before being ferried away by lines of SUV's and private limousines.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was among the first to arrive in a delegation of 100 people on a Biman Airways jet from Dhaka.

The Boeing 787 Dreamliner, call sign BBC2012, had been specially commissioned to fly the Premier and her entourage to Scotland for the global gathering.

The plane burns around 5400litres of fuel an hour meaning it needed more than 64,000litres to land it at Glasgow Airport over the near-12 hour trip.

Waiting for her were scores of supporters who waved the country's flag and unfurled banners welcoming her.

She was soon followed shortly afterwards by the President of Mauritania Mohamed Ould Ghazouani whose delegation of 10 people flew in from Nouakchott on a Boeing 737 Max 8, call sign MRT001.

Egypt President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi landed on another Boeing and was surrounded by security guards as he was driven away through the rain.

Other planes from countries not normally served by Glasgow arrived from Ukraine, Pakistan, Armenia, South Korea, Australia, India, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Angola and Palestine.

Cyprus landed an Airbus A319 landed at Glasgow Airport from Larnaca and it later shifted to the city's second airport at Prestwick.

Adding to the massive fuel consumption on Monday will be Estonia, Bulgaria, Bahrain, Jordan, Ghana, Croatia who are all due to land jets at Glasgow Airport.

A German Air Force jet will also land at Glasgow Airport today.

The Japanese Air Force One, Air India One and Israeli Wing of Zion are also expected to arrive carrying their leaders for the summit.

President Joe Biden alone will generate an estimated 2.2million pounds of carbon to reach the summit.

The gigantic carbon footprint comprises 2.16 million pounds of carbon dioxide generated by the four large planes that make up his airborne entourage on the trip to Italy and Scotland, where the president will speak at the COP26 summit on change in Glasgow, with the remainder emitted by Biden's cars.

His fleet is comprised of the heavily modified Boeing 747 he travels on, known as Air Force One when the president is on board, an identical decoy, and two huge C-17 Globemaster planes to carry his battalion of cars and helicopters.

One airport source told MailOnline: 'It doesn't make sense to have all these extra planes landing in Scotland. They are only adding to the problem by flying all these planes in when it's quite easy to stay home and chat.

'We have all learned about Zoom calls and how efficient they are and can stop the need for people to travel. I don't get why all these planes have to fly these leaders and their people in.

'They could have just as well held video conferences and invited everybody, politicians and public, to join in. The sight of these planes landing is a very negative image against their messages against climate change.'

But today, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss insisted it was not possible to hold such a major conference over a video call.

She told BBC Breakfast: 'I think everyone who's ever done a Zoom call knows that they are quite useful for some things but when you really get into crunch negotiations and want to look somebody in the eye and talk to them face to face you do need to meet in person.

'World leaders are going to have to make some tough decisions and commit to things they didn't necessarily want to when they arrived at the conference and that's why it's really important to have people face to face to allow these negotiations to take place.'

Matt Finch, of the Transport and Environment campaign group, told the Sunday Record: 'The average private jet, and we are not talking Air Force One, emits two tons of CO2 for every hour in flight.

'It can't be stressed enough how bad private jets are for the environment, it is the worst way to travel by miles. Our research has found that most journeys could easily be completed on scheduled flights.'

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Robots on streets; food delivery grows</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/robots-hit-streets-demand-food-delivery-grows-80916994">https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/robots-hit-streets-demand-food-delivery-grows-80916994</a>
GIST	<p>ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- Robot food delivery is no longer the stuff of science fiction. But you may not see it in your neighborhood anytime soon.</p> <p>Hundreds of little robots — knee-high and able to hold around four large pizzas — are now navigating college campuses and even some city sidewalks in the U.S., the U.K. and elsewhere. While robots were being tested in limited numbers before the coronavirus hit, the companies building them say pandemic-related labor shortages and a growing preference for contactless delivery have accelerated their deployment.</p> <p>“We saw demand for robot usage just go through the ceiling,” said Alastair Westgarth, the CEO of Starship Technologies, which recently completed its 2 millionth delivery. “I think demand was always there, but it was brought forward by the pandemic effect.”</p> <p>Starship has more than 1,000 robots in its fleet, up from just 250 in 2019. Hundreds more will be deployed soon. They're delivering food on 20 U.S. campuses; 25 more will be added soon. They're also operating on sidewalks in Milton Keynes, England; Modesto, California; and the company's hometown of Tallin, Estonia.</p> <p>Robot designs vary; some have four wheels and some have six, for example. But generally, they use cameras, sensors, GPS and sometimes laser scanners to navigate sidewalks and even cross streets autonomously. They move around 5 mph.</p> <p>Remote operators keep tabs on multiple robots at a time but they say they rarely need to hit the brakes or steer around an obstacle. When a robot arrives at its destination, customers type a code into their phones to open the lid and retrieve their food.</p> <p>The robots have drawbacks that limit their usefulness for now. They're electric, so they must recharge regularly. They're slow, and they generally stay within a small, pre-mapped radius.</p> <p>They're also inflexible. A customer can't tell a robot to leave the food outside the door, for example. And some big cities with crowded sidewalks, like New York, Beijing and San Francisco, aren't welcoming them.</p> <p>But Bill Ray, an analyst with the consulting firm Gartner, says the robots make a lot of sense on corporate or college campuses, or in newer communities with wide sidewalks.</p> <p>“In the places where you can deploy it, robot delivery will grow very quickly,” Ray said.</p> <p>Ray said there have been few reports of problems with the robots, other than an occasional gaggle of kids who surround one and try to confuse it. Starship briefly halted service at the University of Pittsburgh in 2019 after a wheelchair user said a robot blocked her access to a ramp. But the university said deliveries resumed once Starship addressed the issue.</p>

Patrick Sheck, a junior at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, gets deliveries from a Starship robot three or four times a week as he's leaving class.

"The robot pulls up just in time for me to get some lunch," Sheck said. Bowling Green and Starship charge \$1.99 plus a service fee for each robot delivery.

Rival Kiwibot, with headquarters in Los Angeles and Medellin, Columbia, says it now has 400 robots making deliveries on college campuses and in downtown Miami.

Delivery companies are also jumping into the market. Grubhub recently partnered with Russian robot maker Yandex to deploy 50 robots on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Grubhub plans to add more campuses soon, although the company stresses that the service won't go beyond colleges for now.

U.S. delivery orders jumped 66% in the year ending in June, according to NPD, a data and consulting firm. And delivery demand could remain elevated even after the pandemic eases because customers have gotten used to the convenience.

Ji Hye Kim, chef and managing partner of the Ann Arbor, Michigan, restaurant Miss Kim, relied heavily on robot delivery when her dining room was closed last year. Kim had partnered with a local robot company, Refraction AI, shortly before the pandemic began.

Kim prefers robots to third-party delivery companies like DoorDash, which charge significantly more and sometimes cancel orders if they didn't have enough drivers. Delivery companies also bundle multiple orders per trip, she said, so food sometimes arrives cold. Robots take just one order at a time.

Kim said the robots also excite customers, who often post videos of their interactions.

"It's very cute and novel, and it didn't have to come face to face with people. It was a comfort," Kim said. Delivery demand has dropped off since her dining room reopened, but robots still deliver around 10 orders per day.

While Kim managed to hang on to her staff throughout the pandemic, other restaurants are struggling to find workers. In a recent survey, 75% of U.S. restaurant owners told the National Restaurant Association that recruiting and retaining employees is their biggest challenge.

That has many restaurants looking to fill the void with robot delivery.

"There is no store in the country right now with enough delivery drivers," said Dennis Maloney, senior vice president and chief digital officer at Domino's Pizza.

Domino's is partnering with Nuro, a California startup whose 6-foot-tall self-driving pods go at a maximum speed of 25 mph on streets, not sidewalks. Nuro is testing grocery and food delivery in Houston, Phoenix and Mountain View, California.

Maloney said it's not a question of if, but of when, robots will start doing more deliveries. He thinks companies like Domino's will eventually use a mix of robots and drivers depending on location. Sidewalk robots could work on a military base, for example, while Nuro is ideal for suburbs. Highway driving would be left to human workers.

Maloney said Nuro delivery is more expensive than using human drivers for now, but as the technology scales up and gets more refined, the costs will go down.

	<p>For cheaper sidewalk robots — which cost an estimated \$5,000 or less — it's even easier to undercut human delivery costs. The average Grubhub driver in Ohio makes \$47,650 per year, according to the job site Indeed.com.</p> <p>But robots don't always cost delivery jobs. In some cases, they help create them. Before Starship's robots arrived, Bowling Green didn't offer delivery from campus dining spots. Since then, it has hired more than 30 people to serve as runners between kitchens and robots, Bowling Green dining spokesman Jon Zachrich said.</p> <p>Brendan Witcher, a technology analyst with the consulting firm Forrester, says it's easy to get excited about the Jetsons-like possibility of robot delivery. But ultimately, robots will have to prove they create an advantage in some way.</p> <p>"It's possible that we see this emerge into something else," he said. "But it's the right time and place for companies considering robots to test them and learn from them and do their own evaluation."</p>
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## Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Fatal shooting Seattle's Northgate</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://spdblotter.seattle.gov/2021/11/02/detectives-investigating-fatal-shooting-in-northgate/">https://spdblotter.seattle.gov/2021/11/02/detectives-investigating-fatal-shooting-in-northgate/</a>
GIST	<p>Police are investigating after a man was shot and killed in the Northgate neighborhood late Monday night.</p> <p>At 11:00 p.m., a 911 caller in the 11500 block of 5th Avenue Northeast reported he'd found his roommate unresponsive. Almost simultaneously, more 911 callers in the area reported hearing gunshots. Police arrived and found a 51-year-old man with a gunshot wound. Seattle Fire Department medics responded and declared the man deceased.</p> <p>SPD's Crime Scene Investigation Unit responded to process the scene for evidence.</p> <p>Homicide detectives also responded and will continue to investigate.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Spokane PD: Seattle sex trafficking, murder</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/spokane-police-19-year-old-murdered-after-selling-girlfriend-into-seattle-sex-trafficking-ring/YHYX2MDKVZGBXAD4KK2HXPARI/">https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/spokane-police-19-year-old-murdered-after-selling-girlfriend-into-seattle-sex-trafficking-ring/YHYX2MDKVZGBXAD4KK2HXPARI/</a>
GIST	<p>SPOKANE, Wash. — Police in Spokane made an arrest Oct. 29 in a case involving sex trafficking in Seattle and the murder of a 19-year-old man who was beaten and stabbed after being tied up and put into the trunk of a car.</p> <p>In October 2020, 60-year-old John Eisenman discovered that his underage daughter's boyfriend had allegedly sold her into a sex trafficking organization in Seattle for \$1,000.</p> <p>Eisenman traveled to Seattle and rescued and returned his daughter to Spokane that same month.</p> <p>In November 2020, Spokane police believe Eisenman learned that the boyfriend, 19-year-old Aaron Sorenson, would be in Airway Heights, west of Spokane.</p> <p>Police said Eisenman confronted Sorenson, where he zip-tied him and put him in the trunk of a car.</p> <p>Court documents said Eisenman threw a cinder block at Sorenson's head and stabbed him several times in the stomach, killing him.</p>

	<p>Sorenson's body was left in the trunk, and the car was abandoned in North Spokane County for nearly a full year.</p> <p>In October 2021, police believe a third party, apparently without knowing there was a year-old deceased body in the trunk, drove the car back to Spokane and left it on East Everett Avenue.</p> <p>On Oct. 22, Spokane police received calls from another party that discovered the body in the trunk while rummaging through the abandoned car.</p> <p>Spokane police arrested Eisenman on a first-degree murder charge.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Mexico: 2 veteran reporters killed</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/mexico-journalists-killed-violence-reporters">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/01/mexico-journalists-killed-violence-reporters</a>
GIST	<p>Mexican journalists have expressed alarm after two veteran reporters were attacked in their own homes in less than 24 hours, bringing this year's death toll for media workers to nine – already surpassing the eight deaths recorded in 2020.</p> <p>Fredy López Arévalo, a veteran reporter in the southern state of Chiapas, was shot in the head inside his home in the city of San Cristóbal de las Casas on Thursday. López had covered Central American politics and the Zapatista uprising for news organisations such as Reuters, the Los Angeles Times and Notimex, and he still reported on the local political situation.</p> <p>On the same day, Acapulco journalist Alfredo Cardoso <a href="#">was pulled</a> from his home by masked gunmen who also threatened his family. He was found the next day having been shot five times, and died from his injuries in hospital on Sunday, according to press freedom organization Reporters Without Borders.</p> <p>Cardoso previously worked as a photojournalist in Acapulco, a city which was once the jewel in the crown of Mexican tourist destinations <a href="#">but has been a hotbed</a> of drug cartel violence for more than a decade. More recently he was the manager of the online news site Revista Dos Costas.</p> <p>“The situation for journalists in Acapulco and all of Guerrero [state] has worsened,” said Bernardino Hernández, a photojournalist in the coastal city.</p> <p>“Journalists have been threatened, some have had to flee. It's a really dicey situation,” he said.</p> <p>No suspects have been arrested for either crime. Crimes committed against Mexican journalists almost always wallow in impunity – the product of inept and inadequate investigations, a lack of political will to stop the killings of media workers and frequent collusion between drug cartels.</p> <p>The two attacks reinforced Mexico's reputation as the most murderous country for journalists in the hemisphere.</p> <p>The country's murder rate has steadily risen since the then president Felipe Calderón declared a militarized crackdown on drug cartels in 2006.</p> <p>In the same period, attacks on journalists have also skyrocketed. Analysts say <a href="#">those most at risk</a> are reporters who cover the intersection between local politics and the drugs trade.</p> <p>“These murders take place within a context of continuously deteriorating security in the country, for all citizens, but particularly for human rights defenders and journalists,” said Jan-Albert Hootsen, Mexico representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists.</p> <p>“These attacks are fueled by impunity, which is almost complete in crimes against the press. The government of [President Andrés Manuel] López Obrador has been unwilling to take any meaningful steps to strengthen the justice state or protect journalists.”</p>



	Mexico recorded 36,773 homicides in 2020, in spite of the pandemic and quarantines, <a href="#">according to the state statistics service INEGI</a> – slightly higher than the 36,661 homicides registered in 2019.
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Attack left flight attendant w/concussion</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/us/american-airlines-flight-attendant-assault.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/us/american-airlines-flight-attendant-assault.html</a>
GIST	<p>An American Airlines flight attendant who was struck on her nose by a passenger last week sustained a concussion and had to be taken by stretcher from the plane after it was diverted to Denver, where the passenger was taken into custody, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Colorado.</p> <p>The passenger, Brian Hsu, 20, of Irvine, Calif., was charged with assault and interference with a flight crew, according to the criminal complaint.</p> <p>The flight attendant was taken to a hospital after the flight, American Airlines Flight 976 from New York City to Santa Ana, Calif., was diverted to Denver International Airport on Wednesday.</p> <p>Doctors found that the flight attendant had a concussion, according to the filing from an F.B.I. agent who investigated the case. She underwent a CT scan, but doctors were “unable to determine if her nose was fractured because of the swelling,” the filing said.</p> <p>According to statements that passengers who witnessed the episode made to the F.B.I. agent, the flight attendant asked Mr. Hsu to stay away from the bathroom, and Mr. Hsu “punched her in the face with sufficient force to cause her to hit the lavatory door.” Another witness described the passenger “striking her with his fist in a way that appeared practiced or trained.”</p> <p>After the flight attendant was struck, another flight attendant repeatedly asked Mr. Hsu to sit in his seat, according to the filing. Mr. Hsu did not initially comply but finally sat down, and then, one witness told the authorities, Mr. Hsu was restrained with tape and later “plastic bonds.”</p> <p>Mr. Hsu told the authorities a different account. He said that he was returning to California from New York after having brain surgery in Rhode Island to “reconstruct portions of his skull” after he was assaulted in New York City in fall 2020 and sustained a skull injury, according to the filing.</p> <p>Mr. Hsu said he got up from his seat on the plane to use the restroom and stretch. While he was stretching, Mr. Hsu said, he accidentally bumped the flight attendant, and she began swinging at him with her hands, the filing said. Mr. Hsu said that he “backed up towards his seat and raised his hands defensively” and that she “hit her nose against the palm of his right hand.”</p> <p>Mr. Hsu told the authorities that he sometimes experiences a “mental ‘fog’” and that “he became scared because an impact to his head in its current state could cause him severe injury or death,” according to the complaint.</p> <p>The flight attendant told the authorities that she had told Mr. Hsu he could not use the bathroom because the pilot had turned on the plane’s “fasten seatbelt” signs, and that he needed to return to his seat, according to the filing.</p> <p>Mr. Hsu then “charged at her, flailing his arms,” the complaint said.</p> <p>A federal public defender assigned to represent Mr. Hsu did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Monday night.</p> <p>In a <a href="#">video message posted on Instagram</a>, Doug Parker, the chief executive of American Airlines, called the encounter “one of the worst displays of unruly behavior we’ve ever witnessed.”</p>

Mr. Hsu will never be allowed to fly again with American Airlines, Mr. Parker said in the video message, adding that such altercations are “happening far too often.”

“This type of behavior has to stop,” he said.

The episode is one of thousands that have occurred this year, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Through Oct. 26, the F.A.A. had recorded more than 4,900 reports of unruly passengers this year, in addition to more than 3,500 face mask-related incident reports.

In a [statement](#) on Oct. 28, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants said that barring the passenger from future American Airlines flights “does not address the root problem,” and called for the F.A.A. and the Department of Transportation to implement a “no-fly” list to include all airlines.

“We need to keep pushing,” the association said. “We need more police in airports, increased fines for egregious behavior, and stronger, enforceable criminal penalties.”

In a [statement in September](#), Steve Dickson, the F.A.A. administrator, said the number of incidents had dropped after the agency instituted a “zero-tolerance” policy toward unruly passengers; the policy opts for directly issuing fines instead of warning letters.

“Our work is having an impact and the trend is moving in the right direction,” Mr. Dickson said. “But we need the progress to continue. This remains a serious safety threat, and one incident is one too many.”

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Derek Chauvin trial jurors identified</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/us/derek-chauvin-trial-jury.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/01/us/derek-chauvin-trial-jury.html</a>
GIST	<p>MINNEAPOLIS — More than six months after a jury found the former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murdering George Floyd, the identities of the 12 jurors whose verdict sent Mr. Chauvin to prison were released on Monday for the first time.</p> <p>The jurors were kept out of view of the courtroom cameras during the trial and shuttled back to their homes in secrecy each night, but several have since described the deliberations that took place in a hotel conference room and the toll of the three-week trial.</p> <p>Still, half of the jury remained anonymous until Monday, after the judge who oversaw the trial <a href="#">ordered that all of their names should be released</a> in response to a request by a coalition of news outlets including The New York Times. The jurors whose names were publicized for the first time either declined to comment on Monday or could not be reached.</p> <p>“Most of them really just want to stay low-key and stay behind the scenes,” Brandon Mitchell, a juror who <a href="#">spoke publicly about a week after the verdict</a> on April 20, said on Monday. He said that all of the jurors have been keeping in touch on an email chain since the trial. “They’re scared of the unknown and of becoming a public figure instead of spending their lives in peace.”</p> <p>At the home of one juror, less than two miles from where Mr. Chauvin knelt on Mr. Floyd’s neck, a sign was taped to the door that said “Please, no press no soliciting.” A Black Lives Matter poster was displayed prominently in a window of the home.</p> <p>In interviews since the trial, Mr. Mitchell and several other jurors have recounted how they gathered in a hotel conference room and pored over the case for two days of deliberations, making lists and timelines on a whiteboard and reviewing videos and testimony. Accounts have differed on how many people leaned toward voting guilty right away; Mr. Mitchell has said that 11 jurors were initially ready to convict on a murder charge and one was unsure, while another juror said last week that as many as five had initially been unsure.</p>

In an interview with several jurors [that aired on CNN last week](#), one said she had been swayed by the fact that Mr. Chauvin had not provided aid to Mr. Floyd as he pinned him to the ground with his knee for nine minutes and 29 seconds.

“This is not what he did, but more or less what he didn’t do,” the juror, Jodi Doud, said on CNN. “He did not provide lifesaving measures for George Floyd when he knew that the guy was in pain or needed medical attention.”

Mr. Chauvin and several other officers who have been charged in Mr. Floyd’s death responded on May 25, 2020, to a 911 call from a convenience store clerk who said Mr. Floyd had used a fake \$20 bill to buy cigarettes. Officers took Mr. Floyd to the ground and handcuffed him, and Mr. Chauvin knelt on his neck as a group of bystanders formed on the sidewalk. Several of the bystanders yelled for officers to get off Mr. Floyd, and one, [Darnella Frazier](#), took a cellphone video of the scene that sparked outrage and led to protests across the world.

After the jury’s verdict, Judge Peter A. Cahill [sentenced Mr. Chauvin to 22 and a half years in prison](#).

The court on Monday also released responses to [questionnaires](#) that were sent to hundreds of prospective jurors before lawyers for both sides whittled down the pool to 12 jurors, as well as [two alternate jurors](#) who sat through the trial but did not deliberate or vote on the verdict.

The questionnaires reveal a diverse range of opinions from the jurors, who were from throughout Hennepin County and ranged in age from their 20s to their 60s. Four of the jurors were Black, six were white and two were multiracial; seven of the 12 were women.

In the questionnaires, they were asked about their views on everything from the Black Lives Matter movement to podcasts to how they viewed their own interactions with the police. Some checked a box indicating that they had been “very satisfied” when they had called the police for help, while another said she was “very unsatisfied” after asking the police for help when her purse was stolen from a bar.

Some said they regularly read or watched the news while others said they had little interest. “I don’t really follow the news or politics,” wrote one juror, [Journey Howard](#), who said she listened to Joe Rogan’s podcast and came across news snippets on Facebook but otherwise did not seek them out.

Still, all of the jurors were able to describe many facts of Mr. Floyd’s death and the demonstrations that rocked the city in the days after, a sign of just how much the killing affected the region. All but one of the jurors said they had seen at least part of the video that showed Mr. Chauvin kneeling on Mr. Floyd’s neck.

Asked whether they believed that the police treated white and Black people equally, almost all disagreed, while all jurors said they agreed with the statement that “Police in my community make me feel safe.” They diverged more on how they viewed the phrases “Black lives matter” and “blue lives matter” and on whether the demonstrations that followed Mr. Floyd’s death — which were [particularly destructive](#) in Minneapolis — had helped or hurt the city.

Asked if they wanted to serve on the jury, five indicated that they wanted to be selected as jurors and six checked a box that said “Not sure.” One woman checked both “Yes” and “Not sure.”

In the CNN interview, several jurors pushed back on critics who have suggested that they must have felt pressure to convict because of the protests in Minneapolis after Mr. Floyd’s death and the protests that followed [the fatal police shooting of another Black man](#) in a Minneapolis suburb during the trial.

“This was no easy task for us,” one of the jurors, Sherri Hardeman, said in the CNN interview. “I felt like it was my civic duty to step forward and represent, and a lot of people have different opinions about the verdict and about the whole process, but it wasn’t an easy task; we took this very seriously.”

HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Deputies investigate Spanaway homicide</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.q13fox.com/news/deputies-investigating-homicide-in-spanaway">https://www.q13fox.com/news/deputies-investigating-homicide-in-spanaway</a>
GIST	<p>SPANAWAY, Wash. - Pierce County Sheriff's Deputies are investigating a homicide in Spanaway.</p> <p>Deputies were called to a reported shooting in the 200 block of 165th St. S just before 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The 911 caller said a man was down in the front yard of a residence and the suspect had fled the scene.</p> <p>Deputies administered first aid to the victim until paramedics arrived. The 29-year-old victim died at the scene.</p> <p>Detectives and forensic investigators are on scene gathering evidence and talking to witnesses.</p> <p>Deputies say the suspect is a 31-year-old man but he is not in custody at this time. Deputies and a K9 team searched the area but were unable to locate him.</p> <p>It's unclear what led up to the shooting, or if the victim and suspect knew each other.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/02 Nigeria: gunmen abduct Univ. staff, children</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/gunmen-abduct-staff-children-university-nigerian-capital-2021-11-02/">https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/gunmen-abduct-staff-children-university-nigerian-capital-2021-11-02/</a>
GIST	<p>ABUJA, Nov 2 (Reuters) - Gunmen abducted four members of staff and their children from the University of Abuja on Tuesday, the university said, in a rare kidnapping at such a large institution in the Nigerian capital.</p> <p>Gangs of armed men, known locally as bandits, late last year launched a series of abductions from schools and attacks on villages, mostly in the northwest of the country, in return for ransom.</p> <p>There have been kidnappings of individuals on the outskirts of Abuja, but attacks on universities are rare.</p> <p>"Suspected bandits attacked the staff quarters of the university in the early hours of today. We have report that four of our staff and their children were, nevertheless, abducted," the university said on its Facebook page.</p> <p>A source at the university told Reuters that one staff member was taken together with his son and daughter.</p> <p>Nigeria's security forces are stretched on several fronts, including growing lawlessness in the north and northwest and a 12-year Islamist insurgency in the northeast that has killed thousands.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 SF Safeway cuts hours; excessive theft</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/11/01/safeway-in-castro-cuts-hours-due-to-off-the-charts-shoplifting-its-sad-upsetting-and-frustrating/">https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/11/01/safeway-in-castro-cuts-hours-due-to-off-the-charts-shoplifting-its-sad-upsetting-and-frustrating/</a>
GIST	<p>SAN FRANCISCO (CBS SF) — Yet another major retailer in San Francisco has made the decision to close earlier due to excessive theft particularly at night, according to San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.</p> <p>The Castro Safeway on Market and Church Streets was open 24 hours, but that's not the case any longer. Signs posted on its entrance state its new hours are 6 am to 9 pm, effective October 24.</p> <p>Many shoppers were surprised to find that the Safeway they frequent at off-hours is cutting back.</p>

"I feel like it's definitely an inconvenience, not everybody can make it to the supermarket between those hours, so it's a little frustrating, especially for me personally. I like to shop later on," said Chris Rankins, who lives in the Castro.

Mandelman's district includes the Market Street Safeway. He said the company reached out to him to discuss problems with theft.

"I think like a lot of retailers they've been experiencing increasing property crime and theft from their stores," Mandelman said. "I think the last 6 months from what they say has been sort of – off the charts in terms of how bad it's been. It's sad, upsetting and frustrating."

Mandelman said he's now working on organizing a meeting with Safeway, San Francisco police and the district attorney.

"It's an equity problem," he said. "There's a lot of low-income folks, seniors, folks with disability, who rely on that Safeway and other Safeways around the city."

For now, Johnny Denham, who works at night, will have to change his routine.

"It's better for me to come up here after work, go shopping and go home," he said. "Now it's like I either have to go shopping before work, or on my days off, which I really don't like doing."

Safeway did not immediately return KPIX 5's request for comment.

Mandelman added that Safeway told him police rarely arrest anyone for a property crime, by the time they make it on the scene.

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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Clogged supply chains led to cargo theft</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cargo-theft-supply-chain-delays/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cargo-theft-supply-chain-delays/</a>
GIST	<p>As U.S. merchants <a href="#">grapple with clogged ports</a> as well as a shortage of truck drivers, warehouse workers and front-line employees, the supply-chain snarls are leading to another concern as the <a href="#">pandemic</a> drags on: cargo theft.</p> <p>"The more that the supply chain in general is backed up, the more cargo you're going to have sitting. And that creates a bigger opportunity for thefts," Scott Cornell, a crime and theft specialist at insurance giant Travelers, told CBS MoneyWatch.</p> <p>This year, the prime targets of thieves are electronics amid the chip shortage and refrigerated food, according to figures from CargoNet, a division of Verisk Analytics, which tracks thefts along the supply chain for companies, agencies and others.</p> <p>Through September, California topped the list of states with the most reported cargo thefts, followed by Texas and Florida. On the West Coast, a <a href="#">computer chip shortage</a> means the value of some electronic goods that are available, like game <a href="#">consoles</a>, is rising, experts said. On the East Coast, refrigerated trucks used to transport food have been a favorite target of thieves this year.</p> <p>Roughly \$45 million in cargo thefts were reported through September, according to CargoNet. That compares with almost \$68 million for all of 2020 when thieves targeted toilet paper and personal protective equipment. In 2019, before the pandemic, some \$49 million in cargo theft was reported, according to figures provided by CargoNet. The accelerated pace of theft is expected to continue through 2022.</p> <p><b>No end in sight</b></p>

	<p>"What we're going to see next year is probably going to be similar to what we're going to see this year, as far as electronics and the same type of commodities," said Keith Lewis, who oversees CargoNet's operations. "I don't see us coming out of that for a few years."</p> <p>Still, thieves aren't doing the most damage in ports or rail yards, Lewis said. Instead, more merchandise disappears from trucks by way of pilferage — when thieves steal only part of a supply load from parked vehicles, whether it be a few palates or part of a palate, as truckers stop on their way to a distribution center or warehouse.</p> <p>Pilferage is particularly difficult to track because often drivers don't notice the missing cargo until a stop long after theft occurs - so they don't know which law enforcement entity to report the theft, experts said.</p> <p>Take goods moving from California to Texas. Drivers tend to make four to five stops along the route. Thieves typically take only part of the load. Often, drivers won't notice missing goods until the end of the route when they unload, Cornell said. Because they don't know where goods were stolen, reporting where thefts take place can be difficult, experts said.</p> <p>So the driver won't "have any idea where that happened," Cornell said. "So now the questions become, 'who do we report this to?' Well, if you can't tell somebody where it happened, you don't really have anybody to report it to."</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 No plea deal offered to Ghislaine Maxwell</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://www.thedailybeast.com/feds-refused-to-offer-ghislaine-maxwell-jeffrey-epsteins-madam-a-plea-deal?ref=home">https://www.thedailybeast.com/feds-refused-to-offer-ghislaine-maxwell-jeffrey-epsteins-madam-a-plea-deal?ref=home</a>
GIST	<p><a href="#">Ghislaine Maxwell</a>, the British socialite and accused accomplice to wealthy sex offender <a href="#">Jeffrey Epstein</a>, was never offered a plea deal related to her <a href="#">sex-trafficking case</a>, prosecutors said on Monday.</p> <p>Maxwell, 59, appeared in Manhattan federal court for a lengthy hearing that addressed issues over witness testimony and proposed exhibits ahead of her trial date later this month—including the <a href="#">Little Black Book</a> of famous names and addresses that Epstein's former butler claimed he snatched from the financier's <a href="#">Palm Beach lair</a>.</p> <p>When U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan asked Maxwell whether the government and her lawyer were correct in stating a plea bargain wasn't offered to her, she confirmed before softly adding, "I have not committed any crime." One of Maxwell's attorneys, Bobbi Sternheim, also indicated the defense never asked for a deal.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Sternheim raised concerns over <a href="#">Maxwell's treatment</a> by guards at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn and by U.S. Marshals who brought the former socialite to the federal courthouse. According to Sternheim, jailers woke Maxwell up at 3:45 a.m. to get to court around 5:30 a.m. despite her hearing being scheduled for 11 a.m.</p> <p>Sternheim said Maxwell was placed in a "cold cell" and "given little food and no utensils." When Maxwell began nodding off, a guard "poked" her to stay awake even though she was the only inmate in the cell, the lawyer continued.</p> <p>And, Sternheim said, because of Maxwell's shackles on her ankles, "she had to get on her hands and knees just to climb in the van" transporting her to court.</p> <p>"These conditions are just terrible," Sternheim told Nathan.</p> <p>In response, Nathan asked assistant U.S. Attorney Alison Moe to inquire as to whether Maxwell is receiving "differential treatment" compared to other inmates awaiting trial.</p>



Just before the hearing began, Maxwell was escorted into court with a handcuffs chain wrapped around her navy jumpsuit. One of her sisters, who declined to comment, was seated in the gallery and waved to her. (Maxwell has twin sisters, [Isabel and Christine](#), but it's unclear who was present on Monday. Isabel previously showed up to court this year in a black beret, and the person in the gallery this time wore a red one.)

When Nathan ruled against Maxwell's motion to bar the words "victim" and "minor victim" at trial and instead refer to "all persons by their individual names," Maxwell's sister visibly shook her head in response.

Nathan also granted the government's motion to permit witnesses and non-testifying witnesses to be referred to in court by pseudonyms or first name only—a practice that's consistent with the Crime Victim's Rights Act related to victims of childhood sexual abuse. "There is a need here to prevent any undue harassment ... by the press and third parties," Nathan said.

In another blow to Maxwell's legal team, Nathan granted the prosecution's request to ban evidence about the 2005 Florida investigation of Epstein not resulting in charges against Maxwell, and Epstein's infamous non-prosecution agreement, which shielded any of his alleged accomplices. Nathan said the court would not hear "defense evidence that goes to the thoroughness of the government's investigation"—or whether the government improperly charged Maxwell in the aftermath of Epstein's suicide in August 2019—to avoid a "trial within a trial."

But Nathan did rule that certain evidence from the prosecution—including emails that allegedly show Maxwell setting up dates between men and adult women—are inadmissible and irrelevant to the case. Moe argued the emails showed Maxwell was "offering up women based on physical description and not in a matchmaking capacity" and mirrored how Maxwell allegedly served up minor victims to Epstein.

One other sore point for the prosecution could be Epstein's Rolodex of high-powered people and victims and their families. Because the address book was dated around 2005 and surfaced four years later when Epstein's former butler Alfredo Rodriguez tried to sell it to victims' lawyers, it may fall outside the scope of Maxwell's alleged conspiracy. The British heiress and oceans advocate is charged with grooming and trafficking four minor victims from a time period [spanning 1994 to 1997](#) and [2001 to 2004](#).

In a motion filed last week, Maxwell's lawyers argued the document, filed as Exhibit 52, "has no identified author, date of creation, or custodian." They added, "As produced, the document appears to be a compilation of material that was copied from more than one source, arranged, and paginated after the fact." (On Monday, Nathan asked prosecutors to brief the court on the address book in a filing due Nov. 11.)

A second motion from Maxwell's attorneys relates to statements from alleged co-conspirators in the case, though the identity of these individuals isn't known.

Defense lawyers indicated that "the government identified three purported co-conspirators for purposes of trial" but failed to disclose which co-conspirator statements it intends to introduce. "None of the identified purported co-conspirators are available to testify at trial," Maxwell's filing added. "Jeffrey Epstein is dead, and neither [of the co-conspirators] have been granted immunity for their trial testimony. Accordingly, Ms. Maxwell cannot cross-examine any identified co-conspirator about whether he or she made any yet-to-be attributed statement."

In a recent letter to the defense, prosecutors said they will likely call a witness who was employed by Epstein who "will testify about her role in scheduling sexualized massages for Jeffrey Epstein with underage girls."

On Monday, Nathan ordered the government to reveal to the defense which co-conspirator statements it plans to introduce to jurors. Defense lawyer Jeffrey Pagliuca argued that any statements that were made after 2004 in Maxwell's alleged sex-trafficking conspiracy would be hearsay and inadmissible, while Moe

	<p>said the statements will illustrate how the trafficking scheme operated even if outside the timeframe of the charges.</p> <p>Maxwell's team is also seeking to exclude evidence related to a woman referred to as Minor Victim 3. The indictment against Maxwell states that she groomed this woman for Epstein when Minor Victim 3 was a teenager in London from 1994 to 1995.</p> <p>In a filing last week, Maxwell's lawyers argued Minor Victim 3 was above the legal age of consent in the U.K.—which is 16 years old—when the alleged sex acts occurred.</p> <p>Another lawyer for Maxwell, Christian Everdell, told Judge Nathan on Monday that the unidentified victim “was of legal age in every jurisdiction” where the alleged abuse took place and argued that Maxwell wouldn't be charged solely based on the woman's accusations.</p> <p>“It seems like the government is trying to take an episode of legal conduct and make it sound salacious for the jury,” Everdell fumed.</p> <p>Nathan asked prosecutors to address this concern in a future filing.</p> <p>“Minor Victim 3 will describe unwanted conduct in a way that closely mirrors what happened to other victims,” Moe said, adding that the woman would be able to speak to Maxwell's knowledge of Epstein's preference for young girls.</p>
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HEADLINE	<b>11/01 Experts: 2 simultaneous courtroom dramas</b>
SOURCE	<a href="https://abcnews.go.com/US/kyle-rittenhouse-trial-ahmaud-arbery-case-expected-hinge/story?id=80687642">https://abcnews.go.com/US/kyle-rittenhouse-trial-ahmaud-arbery-case-expected-hinge/story?id=80687642</a>
GIST	<p>Two trials over killings that have garnered national attention are now going on simultaneously and legal experts said they expect both will hinge on video evidence.</p> <p>Jury selection in the trial of 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse, who is accused of killing two white people and wounding a third during a protest over the police shooting of a Black man in Kenosha, Wisconsin, took place on Monday. After a long day, a full panel of 20 jurors were selected. Ultimately, 12 of them will deliberate.</p> <p>At the same time, jury selection is ongoing for the trial of three white men accused of chasing down and killing Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man who was jogging in Brunswick, Georgia.</p> <p>Opening statements in both cases could commence by the end of this week.</p> <p>Chris Slobogin, a law professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and director of the school's Criminal Justice Program, told ABC News that he is not aware of two major murder trials such as these occurring at the same time.</p> <p>Although the allegations are vastly different, video is expected to play a major role in both trials.</p> <p>"The prevalence of video in this day and age has made many criminal cases much different than was the case 10, 20, 30 years ago," Slobogin said.</p> <p>But Slobogin said the video evidence does not necessarily mean a slam dunk for prosecutors in either case.</p> <p>"Visual evidence isn't necessarily the truth in the sense that there are a lot of different angles to any given event and the only angle you're getting when you have video is the angle that the camera was pointed from," Slobogin said.</p> <p>Rittenhouse, who was 17 at the time of his alleged crimes, is claiming he used deadly force because he was being attacked by a mob and feared for his life.</p>

The Antioch, Illinois teen Rittenhouse, has pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree reckless homicide, first-degree intentional homicide and attempted first-degree intentional homicide. He has also pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor charge of possession of a firearm by an individual under the age of 18.

Rittenhouse, according to his attorneys, answered "his patriotic and civil duty to serve" when an online call was put out by a former Kenosha city alderman for "patriots" to take up arms and help protect lives and property in the city against looting and rioting that occurred in August 2020.

Angry protests broke out in Kenosha after a police officer there shot Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, multiple times in the back, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. The local district attorney declined to charge the officer after he was cleared in an investigation by the state Department of Justice.

Rittenhouse, who is white, is accused of using an AR-style semiautomatic rifle to fatally shoot two men, Joseph Rosenbaum, 36, and Anthony Huber, 26, during an Aug. 25, 2020, protest in Kenosha. He is also accused of shooting and severely wounding another white protester Gage Grosskreutz, 27.

"We have a situation where a 17-year-old boy, who is not even legally able to carry a weapon, was allegedly in town to protect property that did not belong to him. That's extraordinary," veteran Michigan defense attorney Jamie White told ABC News. "Clearly, he (Rittenhouse) was under some form of assault when you look at the video in an acute sense. But when you look at the entirety of the situation, he just should not have been there."

### **The Arbery case**

In the Arbery case, the defendants Gregory McMichael, 65, a retired police officer, his son, Travis McMichael, 35, and their neighbor, William "Roddie" Bryan, 52, are accused of trying to make a citizens' arrest when Travis McMichael allegedly shot the unarmed Arbery three times with a shotgun, killing him.

Travis McMichael is also expected to claim self-defense, arguing the use of deadly force was justified when the 25-year-old Black man violently resisted a citizens' arrest under a law that existed at the time. The pre-Civil War-era law that was repealed in May primarily due to the Arbery killing gave civilian vigilantes the power to arrest someone they "reasonably suspected" of trying to escape from a felony.

Gregory McMichael, according to his attorneys, claims he thought Arbery, who was jogging past his house, matched the description of a neighborhood burglary suspect. Both he and his son allegedly brandished firearms while chasing Arbery in Travis McMichael's pickup truck that prosecutors allege had a vanity plate featuring a Confederate flag.

Bryan recorded a cellphone video of the confrontation that partly captured Travis McMichael shooting Arbery during a struggle and is expected to be the key evidence prosecutors plan to present at trial.

Bryan's lawyer claims he was just a witness to the incident, but prosecutors alleged he was an active participant in "hunting down" Arbery. Prosecutors also allege that Bryan told investigators he overheard Travis McMichael yell a racial slur at Arbery as he lay dying in the street, an allegation the younger McMichael denies.

Ahmaud Arbery, 25, was allegedly killed by a father and son while jogging on Feb. 23, 2020. Prosecutors say the evidence will show Arbery was just out for a Sunday jog when he was allegedly murdered.

All three men have pleaded not guilty to state charges of murder, aggravated assault, false imprisonment, and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment stemming from the Feb. 23, 2020, fatal shooting in the unincorporated Satilla Shores neighborhood near Brunswick.

The three men were also indicted on federal hate crime charges in April and have all pleaded not guilty.

"We have men who had no property interest in the home where the deceased was apparently trespassing at the worst-case scenario and ended up shot to death," said White, the Michigan trial attorney, referring to a home that was under construction Arbery was caught on surveillance video leaving empty-handed just before he was killed.

### **'I just shot somebody'**

Video evidence expected to be presented in the Kenosha case could prove favorable in the defense of Rittenhouse, Obear said.

"You know the old saying, a picture speaks a thousand words, a video speaks a million. Having watched the videos, I think it's very apparent exactly what the defense argument will be: 'You just have to watch the videos,'" Obear said. "He's basically naturally in a position where he would seem to be defending himself with people approaching him in that manner."

Cellphone videos played at earlier court hearings, partly captured two confrontations the teenager was involved in. In the first, Rosenbaum allegedly followed Rittenhouse into a used car lot and confronted him in an attempt to disarm him before he was shot to death, according to a criminal complaint. As Rosenbaum lay on the ground, Rittenhouse was recorded in a video running away while allegedly calling a friend and telling them, "I shot somebody."

Defense attorneys have cited what appears to be the muzzle flash of a gun in the video before Rittenhouse fired his first shot.

Other videos recorded after Rosenbaum was shot show people chasing Rittenhouse down a street and him apparently being hit by Huber with a skateboard and falling to the ground. The video shows Rittenhouse allegedly shooting Huber, who apparently tried to take his gun away and firing at Grosskreutz, who investigators said was armed with a handgun. Grosskreutz suffered a severe wound to his arm when he tried to grab Rittenhouse's rifle, prosecutors said.

The videos prompted then-President Donald Trump to comment on the Rittenhouse case in August 2020, saying it appeared he was acting in self-defense.

"He was trying to get away from them, I guess, it looks like," Trump said during a news conference. "I guess he was in very big trouble. He probably would have been killed."

A number of conservatives and gun-rights advocates rallied to Rittenhouse's defense, contributing to his defense fund and putting up \$2 million to cover his bail.

### **Judge's controversial ruling**

During what was expected to be the final hearing before the Rittenhouse trial begins, Kenosha County Circuit Judge Bruce Schroeder made a series of rulings that White said appeared to help the defense.

Schroeder ruled that defense attorneys can refer to the two men who were killed and the one wounded as "looters" and "rioters," but barred prosecutors from referring to them as "victims" or even "alleged victims" during the trial, saying they must be called "complaining witnesses" or "decedent."

The judge also granted the defense permission to call an expert witness in police use of force, even though the testimony will pertain to a civilian's use of force.

"We do see the judge already acting in a way that could be arguably biased," White said.

But Obear said much is being made over what he described as a "pretty standard" ruling.

"No one is a 'victim' until there's an adjudication of guilt and the prosecutors like to throw that term around as if it's a prejudged sort of situation," Obear said. "But it's a loaded term. When people hear the term victim it naturally conjures sympathy."

Both White and Obear agreed that allowing the defense to call an expert on the use of force is a "huge win" for Rittenhouse.

"I think that what Mr. Rittenhouse did on this occasion is so extraordinary that to allow a third party to come in and make commentary about that from a legal point of view is certainly going to be powerful and probably will persuade the jury in one way or the other," White said.

Obear added, "If this all has to do with what was going on inside of Kyle Rittenhouse's mind the only way to solve that question is to let a jury decide this."

"What possible reasonable resolution could there be here? We're talking about homicides and his position is, 'I didn't do anything wrong, and self-defense is an absolute defense,'" Obear said. "If that's correctly posited to the jury, they'll find him not guilty, and he'll go home."

Will Rittenhouse take the witness stand?

Legal experts interviewed by ABC News were split on whether defense lawyers should put Rittenhouse on the witness stand.

"This is a case where I can actually see the defense prevailing here without putting him on the stand," Obear said, citing the video evidence.

But White believes Rittenhouse should testify.

"He's a child ... and anytime you can present someone who's vulnerable in that kind of way it's going to benefit the defense from the standpoint of a jury," White said.

Slobogin, however, said that if Rittenhouse testifies, he runs the risk of opening the door for prosecutors to raise broader questions about his actions and intentions.

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